REPORT

ON THE

OUTSTILL SYSTEM IN

HOOGHLY & HOWRAH

1888

WESTMACOTT

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1888.

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BY

E. V. WESTMACOTT,

MAGISTRATE OF HOWRAH.

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REPORT

ON THE

OUTSTILL SYSTEM IN HOOGHLY AND HOWRAH,

1888.

1. Appointment and object of the enquiry.—I was appointed to hold this enquiry under the following orders of the Government of Bengal, in the Financial Department, dated the 18th December 1887:—

No. 4642, dated Calcutta, the 18th December 1887.

From—COLMAN MACAULAY, ESQ., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department,

To—E. V. WESTMACOTT, ESQ., C.S.

I AM directed to forward the accompanying copy of a letter from the Secretary, Indian Association, dated 15th ultimo, on the subject of the extension of the outstill system of excise in the revenue district of Hooghly. The letter contains definite allegations which, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, should be very carefully examined. His Honour is therefore pleased to appoint you to the duty of enquiring into the truth of the statements made by the correspondents of the Indian Association.

2. I am to request that in conducting your enquiry you will be so good as to visit each outstill in the area brought under the system from 1st April. It is desirable that you should give public notice of the dates on which you will visit each place; and you will doubtless so arrange generally, that you may have opportunities of personally observing the working of the outstills and the feeling of the public in regard to them. You will report the result of your investigations directly to Government.

Dated Calcutta, the 15th November 1887.

From—The Secretary to the Indian Association,

To—The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

I AM directed by the Committee of the Indian Association to submit the following remarks for the consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in connection with the introduction of the outstill system into the Hughli and the Howrah districts. The Committee have recently made enquiries into the working of the outstill system in some of the chief places in the above districts where outstills have been opened: and they confess that they view with alarm the rapid spread of intemperance among a class of the people, whose poverty is notorious, and whose material condition, whether in India or elsewhere, must always be a large factor in determining the prosperity of a country. Hitherto the agricultural and the labouring classes in the villages of Bengal have been distinguished for a measure of sobriety, which was as honourable to them as it was a source of unqualified happiness to their families, and of advantage to the community to which they belonged. In the midst of all their poverty, the Bengal labouring man and the Bengal peasant retained their sobriety and the qualities which sobriety can never fail to ensure. The Committee have received unquestionable evidence, which goes far to prove that the poorer classes in the places where outstills have been established are fast losing that character; and that, unless the evil is checked in season, it will be productive of consequences, in which the interests of ryots, the interests of zemindars, and of the Government itself, will be involved; for it need hardly be stated in this place that with the increase of drunkenness there must be a consequent increase of poverty, and the people will be less able to pay their dues both to the zemindar and the State. If, therefore, it is clearly ascertained that the establishment of

outstills in the Hughli and Howrah districts has been attended with the increase of drunkenness in the places concerned, then the Committee venture to hold that it is alike a matter of duty and policy to discontinue the system, at least in regard to these places. The Committee submit that the evidence on this point is clear. If what has appeared in the newspapers represents the truth even partially, there can be no doubt that the establishment of outstills has led to an increase of drunkenness. From almost everywhere the same tale is heard, of persons lying dead drunk on the roads in the vicinity of the outstills; of attempted outrages on the passers-by; of quarrels and fights, and of the general increase of crime. It must, indeed, be so in the nature of things. The liquor has been cheapened by nearly three-fourths. A bottle of liquor which formerly cost a rupee may now be had for four annas. The Secretary of this Association made personal enquiries at the newly-founded outstill at Haripal, and he was told that the cheapest sort of liquor was being sold at four annas per bottle. A conversation which appeared in one of the newspapers and which took place between a member of this Association and some palki-bearers coming from places where outstills have recently been opened, points to the same conclusion. One of the men, in reply to a question as to what he thought of the outstills, said :—"The Sircar has done us a great service. Formerly each bottle cost us a rupee or a rupee and four annas; now we can have a bottle of country liquor for 12 or 14 pice. Great is the Sircar. The Sircar be blessed." The enquiries of the Agents of the Association, deputed on purpose to the mofussil, establish the same fact. The liquor has been so cheapened that the outstills are regarded as a great boon by the lowest class of the people, and inasmuch as the Maharani has conferred on them such a signal mark of her favour, they think it their duty, in return, to show their appreciation of it by taking full advantage of the outstills. This was the language which some of our Agents heard repeated in several places. The Indian Association, with a view to obtain the necessary information, circulated a number of questions quoted on the margin, and the replies which have been received bear unequivocal testimony to the spread of drunkenness and the demoralization of the people in many of the places where outstills have been opened. The President of the Harisabha, Singhur, where an outstill has been established, writes :—

1. Give the population and area of your village, if possible, according to the Census Report.
2. State the situation of the outstill. How far is it from the patshala or school, from the temple or the bathing-ghat, if any?
3. Has the establishment of the outstill in the village been attended with increase of drunkenness and immorality? State specific facts which have come to your knowledge with such evidence bearing on them as is procurable, showing the increase of poverty or immorality consequent upon the increase of drunkenness.
4. Has crime increased in the village since the establishment of the outstill? If possible, give facts in support of your view.
5. What is the class most affected by the establishment of the outstill system? Is there any foundation for the belief so far as you are aware, that the establishment of the outstill system has been attended with the spread of drunkenness among boys?
6. State any other facts in connection with the outstill system which you think would be important in the discussion of the question.

Drunkenness has vastly increased since the outstill has been established here. Several cases have come to my notice where a dozen families have been reduced to actual poverty, or contracted enormous debts during the three months and a half the outstill has been in existence. Instances have transpired in which peaceful inhabitants have been disturbed at night by terrible knocks at their doors, or the noise of drunken revelry. The number of prostitutes has nearly doubled by the support they now obtain, and which has induced several women of doubtful character to leave home altogether. Many persons known to possess sober habits do not now feel ashamed to associate with bad characters. Every item of this can be traced to cheap liquor. Crime has decidedly increased in the village. The following few criminal cases which have come to my notice may be cited as proof thereof :—

Kutra Daolayi	*vs.*	Rakhal and others.
Hari Mochi	*vs.*	Rama Muchi.
Kiro	*vs.*	Sagar Chakravarti.
Khetra Kamar	*vs.*	Chunno Sekra.

All these cases have been caused by drunkenness. Besides the above, there are cases of fighting which, though not taken up before the Magistrate, are in no degree less serious, and are of daily occurrence. The agricultural and menial classes have been most affected by the outstill. Some members of the upper class have also begun to give way.

The Secretary of the Jangipara-Krishnuggur Indian Association thus writes :—

The establishment of the outstill has increased both immorality and drunkenness in the village. On the occasion of the last car festival, a certain Mahomedan was found abusing some women and using bad words to them, which were sufficient to wound their pride and modesty. On that very occasion four Bagdi boys, all under fifteen, took liquor in the outstill and went on their way. As they moved on, one of them fell down, but the rest taking no notice of him walked away. The boy that fell down lay there half dead and senseless, until some boys taking pity on him, came to the spot and applied water to his eyes and face. That day also found a middle-class man, not apparently very well off in his circumstances, lying with his head on a *bund*, and the rest of his body all under the water of the field. When examined he was found not dead, but drunk. The 15th of *Asvin* presented a case of drunkenness on the part of a policeman. That day a man was coming home to Krishnuggur, attended by a Bagdi women of middle age. Some policemen, intoxicated with liquor, came furiously towards them and waylaid them. Fortunately, however, the man called aloud, and immediate assistance from the village rendered a worse scene impossible. Instances like these may be multiplied, but these will suffice. It is undeniable that the establishment of the outstill has been attended with the increase of drunkenness and crime in the village. The outstill has spread drunkenness even among the boys, and has made many a peaceful home full of disquiet, and many a happy mother wretched and broken-hearted.

Another correspondent writes from the same place :—

At about 4 or 5 P.M. on Friday, the 4th *Ashar* last, a great noise was heard from Dulepara (a *basti* inhabited by low caste people, all cultivators of the land, and workmen). All ran to see what happened; and what a horrible scene did they see. The son-in-law of Sridhar Dule got drunk from the outstill and went to the house of a neigbbour, Kedar Bagdi, where he tried to violate the chastity of his wife. The

loud cries of the poor helpless woman brought to the spot Abinash Ghosh, Panchkari Dule, Haridas Dule and others, who saved her from her danger, and administered a good beating to the man for his conduct.

According to usual custom a *mela* took place here on the occasion of the car festival this year on the 10th *Ashar*. About three or four thousand persons came to the *mela*. I came to know from a reliable source that the outstill was overcrowded, and the outstill men sold over one hundred rupees liquor on that single day.

From Amta in the Howrah district, where an outstill has been established, comes the following information :—

The establishment of the outstill has increased drunkenness, and immorality to some extent. Poverty, the consequence of this drunkenness, has increased among the low class people. Theft has increased; rioting occurs now and then. The low class people have been most affected by the establishment of the outstill, and drunkenness has spread to some extent even among the boys of both classes.

From Dihivat, in the Jahanabad sub-division of the Hooghly district, a correspondent writes :—

The price of liquor having become much less than what it was, the number of drunkards has increased. For two pice people get a stomach full of liquor, or even they go to the outstill with rice and get liquor in return.

A correspondent from Haripal, in the Hooghly district, writes :—

It cannot be gainsaid that there has been a considerable increase of drunkenness and immorality since the establishment of the outstill, especially amongst the poor and low classes of the people. The day-labourers, who are for the most part *coolies*, are frequently found to be going on the roads, or lying by the side of them, quite intoxicated. These things are exceedingly disgusting to the sight of every well-wisher of the people.

From Sripur, in the Hughli district, the Committee have received replies to their questions, from which they make the following extract :—

Yes, with the establishment of the outstill, drunkenness and immorality have awfully increased in the village. Instances have occurred in which a drunkard was seen interrupting the way of a beautiful young wife, threatening to outrage her modesty. Bands of drunkards are heard singing abusive and obscene songs as they reel along the ways and by-paths that lead into the creeks and corners of the village. Many are seen in a nude state along the bathing-ghâts of the river, so that quite a terror has been struck into the female minds. The lower classes of the people have been mostly affected by the outstill. Yes, among boys and men of these classes, drunkenness has spread widely. Let me here cite an instance: The other day I and two friends went to Jaliapara to enjoy an excursion on the river. No boatmen liked to take us, for they knew that the Zemindar Babus would pay nothing for the trouble. Almost despairing, we turned back and saw a band of little boys playing on the road. One of my friends, taking into his head to make a jest with the boys, called them and asked if any of them could procure a boat and two rudders, and promised to reward them with a bottle of liquor. Like a spell it acted. On came five or six boys, all between 8 and 15 years. We were thunderstruck to see that they were all in earnest, and could not help cursing the system that has spoiled these innocent boys. The outstill having affected the lower classes, the increase of crime, such as stealing and house-breaking, will be proportionate to their poor circumstances.

From Chanditala, near Jonai, in the Serampore sub-division of the Hughli district, the Committee have received the following information :—

That on the site of the old vernacular school-building at Chanditala there has been constructed an outstill which allows six gallons of country liquor to be prepared on payment of Rs. 14 per diem—limitation which, I believe, is often exceeded, when the people from Chanditala and other villages, about twenty in number, the two-thirds of whose inhabitants are daily consumers of country spirits, often go to the outstill to drink. This income of Government, though undoubtedly a promising and liberal one, has resulted in the depravity of the morals of the local inhabitants. Even the poorer classes who used to earn their livelihood on daily wages, and to support themselves and their families, have not a farthing left with them since the establishment of the outstill system, as they often go in crowds to the outstillery and drink hard, thus leaving nothing for their families. Even the schoolboys who receive a daily tiffin allowance from their guardians often fall victims to this pernicious habit of drinking. These men have become a nuisance even to the passers-by, for many are found lying on the public road singing obscene songs; some found quarrelling amongst one another; some throwing stones upon the passers-by.

From Jhapordha, a very large and important village in the Howrah district, the Committee have received a communication, from which they make the following extract :—

Jhaporda is a village whose area is about $2 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. The number of families residing therein is about 832, and the population is nearly 5,000, of which 1,500 are Brahmans. The outstill stands in Jhapordha bazar, on the outskirts of the village, and on the side of a public road passing through it. The school and patshala are situated about 100 bighas distant from it. There is no doubt that the establishment of the outstill has led to the increase of drunkenness and immorality to a lamentable extent, as will be seen from the following facts :—The day-labourers and the cultivators waste the little money they earn by the sweat of their brow in purchasing liquor, and thereby produce starvation in their ill-fated families. Many gentlemen, who come to bazar to purchase their necessary things, get drunk with the little money, cause annoyance to the public, and generally lie insensible on the public road, and their guardians, friends or relatives have to carry them home. Many at night commit trespass in the houses of their neighbours for bad motives. The drivers of the hackney carriages that habitually ply between Howrah and Jhapordha getting intoxicated at the outstill, drive sometimes rashly, and sometimes detain the passengers in consequence of quarrels among themselves. Since the establishment of the outstill, assault, quarrels, affray, trespass and petty thefts are almost every day's occurrence. The establishment of the outstill has affected almost all classes, and the working classes mostly. There is some foundation for the belief that drunkenness has spread among boys too. Here, about a month or two ago, one patshala boy, named Rakhal Chunder Chatterjee, aged about 12, got drunk one day and lay quite insensible by the roadside, when his father came and took him home. There are boys at the local school whom the people suspect of drinking. The outstill is doing its work of ruin among the working classes in villages. They generally get drunk at the small cost of 4 annas or 5 annas per bottle, as the supply from the outstill is ever on the increase; and the cheap price at which country liquor is sold creates fresh inducement among those that can afford to pay.

The Committee have received a letter regarding the outstill at Jaggatbullubpur, in the Howrah district, from which they make the following extract:—

The population of Jaggatbullubpur is about 2,525 according to the Census Report, and its area is nearly a mile. The outstill has been opened at the extremity of the village. It is at the distance of a stones-throw from the local English school, sub-registry office, post office, and a Mahomedan mosque, and only a few steps from the public bathing-ghât. Drunkenness has increased, and it has effected chiefly the lower classes of the people, such as shoe- makers, village chowkidars, palanquin bearers, &c. Immorality is on the increase. At present schoolboys are not affected by the outstill; but as the site of the outstill is near the public road, by-and-bye the boys will take to drink. The abolition of the outstill is indispensably necessary; otherwise all classes of men and even boys will soon take to this vice.

Such instances might be multiplied to show the increase of drunkenness and of the increase of immorality consequent upon it, but it is not necessary to do so. The fact is universally admitted, and is incontestably proved; and yet the declaration of the late Government of Bengal remains that "no considerations of revenue should be permitted to outweigh the paramount duty of the Government to prevent the spread of intemperance." The establishment of outstills in the Hughli and Howrah districts, so far from preventing, has, on the contrary, directly fostered the spread of intemperance. The declarations of the Government and its policy, the Committee venture respectfully to submit. are in this respect in direct conflict with one another. The Committee will not presume to point out what the duties of a Christian Government should be in a matter of this kind. But it is sufficient for them to take their stand upon the avowed declaration of the Government itself. His Honour Sir Steuart Bayley, in reply to the address of this Association in April last, was pleased to say:—"Under the outstill there is a check on the outturn by limiting the capacity of the still, and the price of liquor is raised as high as it can be by the self-acting check of selling the still to the highest bidder." The Committee venture respectfully to point out—and they appeal to the evidence which they have already quoted—that this result has not been realized, and that the price of liquor, instead of being raised, has been cheapened in every place without exception. If, therefore, one of the primary objects of the outstill system has not been secured; if by cheapening liquor it has fostered intemperance, it becomes a question whether the grounds upon which the system rests should not be reconsidered, at least in relation to those places where it has been attended with this unexpected result.

The Committee have been encouraged in the hope that this will be done by what His Honour was pleased to say on the occasion to which reference has already been made:—"There may be local reasons," observed His Honour, "for its working badly, or being found inapplicable in particular tracts, and these should, of course, be examined." And again in his great speech at Bankipore, distinguished alike for its candour and elevation of tone, His Honour observed:—"The result in these districts (Behar) has been, I am led sincerely to believe, a diminution in drunkenness. I am not sure that elsewhere mistakes may not have been made, and that further experience may not lead to further reforms." The Committee venture to submit that it has been a mistake to have introduced the outstill system into the thickly-populated districts of Hughli and Howrah, and into some of the large villages, which are little short of towns in those districts. Hughli and Howrah are two of the most thickly-populated districts in Bengal. To have opened outstills in the villages of these thickly-populated districts, the Committee submit, is distinctly opposed to the recommendations of the Commission; for the Commission say in page 112 of the Report—

"If the evidence of the witnesses examined at Patna, Arrah, Monghyr, Bhagulpore, Dacca, and similar towns are compared with the figures for those towns shown in the statement of towns and rural areas, it will be seen that the strongest denunciations of the evil effects of the outstill system come from places where the revenue from it has been declining or stationary, or very slowly progressive. But even if this had not been the case, the conclusion that the present system is unsuited to towns could not, in the opinion of the Commission, be avoided. Apart from the moral and social evils which are clearly indicated by the disproportion between revenue and known consumption, there are, in the opinion of the Commission, insurmountable objections, on the score of health and public convenience, to allowing the manufacture of country-spirits, with the nuisances inseparable from it, to be carried on in the midst of crowded Indian towns or even large villages."

It would thus seem that the Commission are opposed to the opening of outstills in large villages. The Committee hold that in many cases outstills have been opened in large villages in the Hughli and the Howrah districts, contrary to the views of the Commission. What constitutes a large village is nowhere specified by the Commission, but there is very little room for difference of opinion upon such a subject; and the facts which the Committee will presently submit for the consideration of His Honour will leave no doubt that the recommendation of the Excise Commission has not always been given effect to, in the prohibition which they impose to the opening of outstills in large villages. Thus, for instance, the following are large villages (the area and population being given as popularly estimated) and in every one outstills have been opened:—

Name of the village.	Area.	Population.
Jangipara-Krishnuggur (Hughli district)	1 mile in length and 3 in breadth	4,000
Sripur (Hughli district) ...	500 acres	4,000
Singur (ditto) ...	3 miles in circumference, comprising ten bustis ...	3,000
Haripal (ditto) ...	2 × 1 square mile	5,000
Amta (Howrah district) ...	3 square miles	5,000
Jhaporda (ditto) ...	2 × 1½ square miles ... ... (of which 1,500 are computed to be Brahmins.) ...	5,000
Jaggutbullubpur (Howrah district) ...	1 mile ... ... (according to the Census Report.)	2,525

The Committee are humbly of opinion that in regard to these and other large villages and indeed in regard to the districts of Howrah and Hughli in general, the question of the introduction of the outstill system should be reconsidered. The system has not raised, but on the contrary has cheapened, the price of liquor, and has thus fostered drunkenness, and with it there are fast spreading, among the rural population of Bengal, the terrible evils which follow in the train of drunkenness. The sober habits of the lower classes of the people are rapidly disappearing; and, poor as they are, the Committee contemplate with alarm the miseries which they are likely to bring upon themselves and their families by the intemperate habits which they are so readily embracing. Yet it is needless to say that the contentment and happinsss of the community, and indeed the stability of social order, depends upon the well-being of the lowest orders of the people. A starving population, frantic with drink, is a danger to the social system, and the Committee cannot conceal from themselves that the continuance of the outstill system may bring such a calamity within a measurable distance of being realized. But this is perhaps an ulterior consequence, though, even as such, statesmanship should not ignore it. What the Committee hold is that the system is inapplicable to the Hughli and Howrah districts, which are studded with thickly-populated villages; that contrary to the recommendations of the Excise Commission, outstills have been opened in many large villages; that liquor has in consequence been cheapened, with the result that there has been a great increase of drunkenness and crime. The Committee would earnestly appeal to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, whose solicitude for the welfare of the people has won him their gratitude, to discontinue the outstill system in the Hughli and Howrah districts, at any rate in regard to its many large villages.

In this connection the Committee would earnestly press for His Honour's consideration the desirability of introducing a system of local option in regard to the establishment of outstills in any locality. The Committee would venture respectfully to recommend that the question as to whether, in any given locality, an outstill should be opened or not, should in every case be left to the decision of the Municipality or the Local Board concerned. The principle, as such, has been accepted by Parliament and might with advantage be recognised in the practical working of the Abkari policy of the Government. The local bodies may be trusted to raise no unnecessary objections, and the publicity which would necessarily be given to their views would ensure their being based upon grounds that would stand the test of public scrutiny. The adoption of a system of local option would not injure the fiscal interests of the Government, except so far as may indeed be necessary for the well-being of the people. Any fiscal system, the Committee would respectfully beg leave to submit, is singularly weak and short-sighted which, for the sake of a temporary accession of revenue, sacrifices the permanent interests of the people, and by helping to impoverish and demoralize them, tends to weaken and impoverish the Government itself. The Committee are afraid that such a principle has partly been embodied in the policy that has led to the establishment of the outstills in the Hughli and Howrah districts.

I have visited each of the thirty-one outstills established in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah. The date of each visit was notified beforehand to Baboo Rasik Lal Ghose, a delegate of the Indian Association, who accompanied me throughout my tour, and whom I have to thank for much courteous and efficient assistance. His presence relieved me of all fear lest the case against the outstills should not be fully and fairly represented. The police were also instructed to give public notice of my coming in every locality, the Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police having given orders beforehand that the police should carry out any instructions which I might give them. Besides obtaining all the information I could from distillers and police officers, I noted the evidence of about 250 witnesses, and also examined quite an equal number when I was walking and riding about, and not in a position to make detailed notes. My first object was to examine the evidence upon which the allegations brought forward by the Indian Association were based, but I also made full inquiries into the trade in country liquor from the point of view of an excise officer, and obtained valuable information from consumers as to the retail prices of liquor under the outstill system, and under the distillery system which it displaced. In connection with prices, I have tested samples of every quality of liquor at every outstill, finding averages to be misleading, and desiring to find out accurately the strength of liquor purchased at different prices. As the Excise Commission observes, it is impossible to draw any correct deductions from figures relating to the comsumption or price of country spirit unless the strength at which it is consumed or sold is also known. One officer from whom I expected fairly accurate information on this head told me vaguely that the strength of liquor at a certain place was from 11° to 40° under proof, and this useless statement is a specimen of the value of most of the figures I obtained at second-hand. I tested almost every sample myself. I am much impressed with the manner in which the trade of

each district is influenced by that of the districts adjoining, and I have pushed my enquiries into Burdwan and the 24-Pergunnahs, though not to the extent which I should have attempted had more time been at my dispoasl. I have not been able to obtain much information from Midnapore or Nuddea. I think that consumption has been allowed to increase while excise revenue has been sacrificed, by the policy of dealing with each district separately, and by permitting unnecessary differences in the incidence of duty on liquor in adjoining tracts. I have endeavoured to obtain information as to the processes of manufacture of spirit from molasses supplementary to that collected by the Excise Commission of which Mr. Ware Edgar was President. I found *mahawa* used as a material in one outstill only, and therefore my enquiries were limited to molasses. In this connection I examined the records of the experiments carried out by Baboo Obhoy Ch. Dass and Dr. Warden, but I find that unless the amount of saccharine matter contained in the wash is ascertained, observations as to the outturn of spirits are, as Dr. Warden has observed, of little value. I examined all the witnesses brought forward by the Indian Association, but otherwise I preferred questioning persons whom I met casually, who did not come to me with the purpose of giving evidence, and who were not prepared for examination beforehand. In reading over the notes which I have recorded, I find that I cannot indicate the value which I attached to each man's evidence from observations of demeanour, and from the manner in which questions were answered. Each of my conclusions has been formed after considering a written abstract of all the evidence on the point, and where evidence conflicting with my conclusions is on record, it must be assumed that I had reason for disbelieving it, which I cannot state without carrying my report to inordinate length. With reference to the effect of the liquor trade on the people generally, I heard the worst that could be said at the drinking centres. Although my tour through the districts extended over nearly two months, and although I desired to gather information from all parts of the country, the necessity of visiting thirty-one outstills to a certain extent confined my inquiries to their immediate neighbourhood, and to the roads leading to them; and my information as to the effect of the outstills on villages at a distance, and not on the main lines of road, is not so full as I should like it to be. To this report I append a copy of all the notes made during my tour, including the depositions of witnesses.

2. **Analysis of allegations made by the Indian Association and examination of reports from certain places.**—The statements made by the correspondents of the Indian Association, which are quoted in the Secretary's letter annexed to yours, and into the truth of which I am directed to enquire, may be analysed as follows:—

1. That the agricultural and labouring classes in the villages have always been distinguished for sobriety.
2. That in the neighbourhood of outstills those classes are losing their sobriety.
3. That almost everywhere persons lie dead drunk on the roads near the outstills.
4. That outrages are attempted on the passers-by.
5. That quarrelling and fighting and crime have increased.
6. That liquor which used to cost a rupee now costs four annas. That this was found to be the fact at Haripal.
7. That the lower classes, such as palkee-bearers, are grateful to Government for bringing down the price of liquor from Re. 1 and Re. 1-4 to 3 or $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas per bottle.
8. That the outstill system has induced habits of intemperance among women.
9. That it has induced school boys and boys of ten or twelve to take to drinking.
10. That the poverty of the agricultural and labouring classes is notorious, that it is increased by increased drinking, and that the people are unable to support their families or to pay their dues to the zemindars or to the state.

11. That outstills have been opened in objectionable positions, and that it is advisable that Local Boards should be consulted as to their situation.

Before proceeding to discuss the general allegations brought forward by the Committee of the Indian Association, I will dispose of the several statements made by their correspondents and quoted in their letter.

Singoor*—The President of the Hari Sabha at Singoor, in the Serampore sub-division of the district of Hooghly, states—(1) that drunkenness has greatly increased since the outstill has been established there; (2) that he knows of a dozen families reduced to poverty, or fallen into debt, within three months and a half; (3) that the residents are disturbed by knocks at their doors and the noise of drunken revelry at night; (4) that the number of prostitutes has been nearly doubled by the support which they now obtain; (5) that this support has caused women of doubtful character to leave their homes altogether; (6) that persons of sober habits are not now ashamed to associate with bad characters; (7) that crime has increased, and that four cases mentioned have been caused by drunkenness; (8) that the agricultural and menial classes have been most affected by the outstill; and (9) that members of the upper classes have begun to give way.

Singoor is a station on the Tarkeshwar Railway, and only half a dozen miles from the boundary of the sudder distillery area, into which it is believed that much liquor is now smuggled from the outstill. The site is an objectionable one, being in the bazar, on the main road running westward from Baidyabatee, about five minutes' walk from the railway station, and very near the school. I saw a colony of prostitutes, still nearer to the school, which may be supposed to be at least as mischievous to the morals of the boys as the outstill, but which does not appear to have excited the indignation of the Indian Association or of its correspondents. I was met at Singoor by Baboo Soorendronath Banerjee, Secretary to the Association, and in his presence examined, among other witnesses, the President of the Hari Sabha, whose letter he quotes. With reference to the alleged increase in drunkenness (1), I find that, unlike many of the outstills which supply an area into which, previous to April 1887, outstill liquor was largely smuggled, the Singoor outstill books show a less average quantity of liquor sold every month than the quantity which the distillery books show to have been taken out in 1886-87 by the licensed shops which previously supplied the same area,* although it is believed that a large quantity of outstill liquor is now smuggled from Singoor into the urban area, which is under the central distillery system. The price has fallen from one rupee, sometimes a little more, but generally one rupee, to from eight to ten annas per bottle; the average strength, as tested by me and compared with the duty previously paid, being very nearly the same, or not more than five degrees weaker. Baboo Piyaree Mohun Bhatacharjya, the aforesaid President of the Hari Sabha, says that he sees many more tipsy people since the still was established, that there was an outstill before when he was a boy, and that he then occasionally saw people of the lower classes lying drunk on the road, that there was afterwards a shop, and that people continued to drink, but that they now drink more. Abhinash Chandra Bandopadhya, a medical man, living two miles from the outstill, says that of the better class people in his village, the proportion of those who drink spirits has increased from $\frac{6}{16}$ths to $\frac{10}{16}$ths, and of the lower classes from $\frac{3}{16}$ths to $\frac{12}{16}$ths, and that those who used to drink *taree* now drink spirits. A Koibortto lakhirajdar, living two miles off, says that, whereas before 25 per cent. of the lower classes did not drink at all, now all drink occasionally; that he sees them. I think that the extent of the increase in drinking is exaggerated. A Brahman produced a paper by which seventeen persons last April pledged themselves not to use tobacco, spirits or intoxicating drugs, and told me that four out of the seventeen had broken the pledge. I examined several persons who drink spirits, and except one, who did not appear to be speaking the truth, all said they had used liquor before, but I understood that they were now able to drink more frequently since liquor had become cheap. The price is certainly only half what it used to be, and I think it probable that

* See Table I, page 24.

* *See* notes of visit to Singoor, page 103.

those who used to drink now drink oftener, without increasing their expenditure. The drinking, which was formerly distributed among eleven shops, is now concentrated at Singoor, and many who used to drink at home now do so at the outstill, and this, without any increase of drinking, would lead to many more tipsy people being seen about Singoor and the neighbourhood than before. There must be some increase in drinking when the price of liquor is reduced by one-half, but in the case of the lower classes, the labourers who come from the western districts, palkee-bearers, and men accustomed to hard physical exertion, drinking by no means necessarily involves drunkenness. Of poverty caused by drinking (2), Baboo Piyaree Mohun can name only four households out of the dozen mentioned in his letter, and he does not know whether these men drank before or not. Three of them, who are Bagdees, probably did. The plea that the money had been spent on drink was only brought forward when the Baboo asked for his rent, and how far it was true I cannot say. He says in his letter that cases have come to his notice in which enormous debts had been contracted since the still was established. Of these, he could not cite one, and the Baboo from whom he said he had heard of them did not appear. From the extract from his letter, I certainly expected that he could name the families who had contracted enormous debts, but he can do nothing of the kind, and I consider that the charge that the outstill has done anything to impoverish the people breaks down. That tipsy people knock on people's doors (3) and make a noise at night is probable enough, but no witness at Singoor seems to have mentioned it, and I did not think it of sufficient importance for special enquiry. That the number of prostitutes has doubled (4), as Baboo Piyaree Mohun has stated, he did not attempt to maintain. He thinks the number has increased from thirty to forty, and has noticed five or six new women among those going for water. I spoke to some of the women, and heard that there were three or four new-comers. The connection of an increase in the number of prostitutes with increased drinking, though not self-evident, is possible. The Baboo mentions the cases of three women of respectable families who have left home with men recently, and whom he saw drunk in the prostitutes' quarter after leaving their homes. They did not, however, stay in Singoor, and the theory that their leaving home was due (5) to the support given by tipsy men to prostitution appears to me absurd. I met with no evidence that persons of (previously ?) sober habits were (6) not now ashamed to be seen with bad characters. With reference to the alleged increase in crime and its connection with drunkenness, I have consulted Mr. Duke and Mr. Ritchie, who have been in charge of the sub-division of Serampore. I heard nothing at Singoor beyond vague assertions that petty thefts of such articles as potatoes had increased. Mr. Ritchie does not speak of observing any increase of crime in connection with increased drunkenness. Mr. Duke has not replied to my letter. That the lower classes have been principally affected by the cheapness of liquor (8) is most probable, and will be fully considered hereafter, but the assertion that some members of the upper class have begun to give way (9) is unintelligible, for I am unable to admit that the *bhodro lok*, as they are popularly called, had not, until the outstill was opened, been addicted to the use of spirituous liquor.

Krishtonogor.*—The second correspondent quoted is from Jangirpara-Krishtonogor, a very large village in the south-west of the Serampore subdivision, the site of a police thana, and of a market twice a week. The site, though not actually in the bazar, is a bad one, being on the southern approach to it, by the main road from Jogotbollobhpoor to Tarkeshwar, on which there is much traffic. The outstill, unlike that at Singoor, supplies an area which extends up to the boundary of what was in 1886-87 an outstill tract, and this area doubtless then drew the greater part of its liquor from the outstills. It is not therefore surprising to find that the quantity of liquor now sold by the outstill is twelve or thirteen times as great as that taken out of the distillery by the shops of which the outstill has taken the place,† and which were doubtless only kept open as a blind to cover the smuggling of outstill liquor. From this place several incidents of drunkenness are cited—(1) that a Mahomedan at the *Euth jatra* was annoying women by foul language; (2) that some Bagdee boys got

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* *See* notes of visit to Krishtonogor, page 88.
† *See* Table I, page 24.

tipsy on the same occasion, one of them being very drunk; (3) that on the same occasion a man was found lying very drunk in a wet field; (4) that some policemen, drunk, came furiously towards a man and a woman and waylaid them, but that assistance from the village rendered a worse scene impossible; (5) that drunkenness has increased among boys, making peaceful homes full of disquiet and happy mothers wretched and broken-hearted; that (6) a Doolee got drunk and went to a Bagdee's house, and tried to violate the chastity of the Bagdee's wife; and that (7), at a certain *mela*, in the month of Ashar, over a hundred rupees worth of liquor was sold in a day. The first instance appears to be true. A Mahomedan at the Ruthjatra was seen annoying women, not only by his language, but by touching them. The particular instance (2) of Bagdee boys drinking was not mentioned by any witness, but other cases of boys of the Bagdee, Koomhar, and so-called Rajpoot castes, were cited. Of the case (3) of the man in the wet field, I heard nothing. I enquired particularly into the case (4) of the man and woman "waylaid" by furious drunken policemen, who turned out to be village chowkidars. What really happened I could not ascertain, as the principal witness, who was said to have rescued the woman, told me he did not come up till other people called out to him that there was no fear, but it seems true that half a dozen tipsy chowkidars did stop the man and woman. That they intended anything more than a frolic, in an open plain, in broad daylight, in sight and hearing of several people, and when the woman had a man with her appears most improbable. I heard nothing about (5) peaceful homes being disquieted, and happy mothers broken-hearted on account of drunkenness among boys. The case (6) of a drunken Doolee trying to violate the chastity of a Bagdinee, I found to be absolutely untrue. The man did not go to her house as was alleged, but met her on the road. Whether he wanted to seize her or not, as the witness alleges, no one knows but himself, but as he did not do so, it can hardly be said that he tried to violate her. She called out, the villagers came, and he ran away. I think it perfectly possible that she got frightened when she saw a tipsy man on the road, without his wishing to meddle with her at all. The sales of liquor, on the day when it is said (7) that they amounted to one hundred rupees, are shown by the books to have been eighteen gallons, equal to 108 bottles which, at the maximum price of ten annas, would have brought Rs. 67-8 only, and at the much more probable price of six annas to Rs. 40-8. The writer says there were three or four thousand persons at the *mela*. One hundred and eight bottles to 3,000 persons would give one bottle to every twenty-seven, and certainly not more than 250 could have been drunk. One of the correspondents of the Indian Association came to me. He said he now often saw tipsy people on the road but never saw such a thing before, otherwise he had no evidence to give me. I heard a good deal at Krishtonogor of drunkenness, and of tipsy men trespassing on people's premises, with evil designs, as is assumed, upon the women, but this not forming part of the allegations upon which I am reporting, I shall discuss hereafter.

Amta.*—From Amta, a large village in the Oolooberiya sub-division of Howrah, where there are a police thana, Moonsif's Court, Registry office, &c., there are general allegations that the outstill has caused increase in (1) drunkenness, (2) immorality, (3) theft, (4) occasional rioting, (5) special mischief to the lower classes, and (6) increased drunkenness among boys. The area served by this outstill extends to the frontier of Midnapore, whence the quantity of outstill liquor smuggled before April 1887 was so great as fully to account for the fact that the average amount of liquor, taken in a month from the distillery by the shop, was less than one-fourth of the average monthly sales of the present outstill.† The site is not in the bazar, but near it, on the way from the river, and is objectionable as forcing itself upon the attention of every one who passes by whether they desire to drink or not. As the previous consumption of outstill liquor was clandestine, it is natural that now when people can drink openly at the outstill instead of in the recesses of their *barees*, more tipsy people should be seen about. The head master of the school said that in his village two miles away there used to be only three or four drunkards, and that there are now forty, all Baboos and traders, that lower class

* *See* notes of visit to Amta, page 81.
† *See* Table I, page 25.

people drink *taree* only, and not spirits. A pleader said that drinking was confined to the higher classes before, but has now spread to the lower since the still was established. Another pleader said that he has heard in his village, six miles to the west, that drinkers of *taree*, Harees, and low caste people, have taken to spirits, but that he knows of no persons previously sober taking to drink. A teacher in the school, living in Amta itself, sees more drunkenness than before, sees little boys tipsy, has had cocoanuts stolen, and thinks the number of thefts has increased. Another pleader thought that the proportion of Baboos who drink has increased from 12 or 25 to 50 per cent. He had heard of no increase in thefts. An elderly Kayasth said that there has been some increase in drinking among the lower classes of people, but that there has been none among the better classes, since liquor has become cheap. That there are many who drink moderately daily without intoxication. The pleaders present repeatedly expressed dissatisfaction while this witness was deposing, as they seemed to consider his evidence for some reason antagonistic to them. I questioned some of the lower class drinkers of spirit, and they said that for eight annas they now got a bottle of as good liquor as they used to get for a rupee, but that the four and six-anna liquor was very inferior. I have no doubt that more of the cheap liquor is consumed now than of the old shop liquor formerly, but am quite ignorant of the extent to which smuggled outstill liquor was drunk before April 1887. I have always considered Amta a somewhat drunken place, but during the three days I stayed there, I saw no one tipsy.

Dihivat.—My enquiries do not extend to Dihivat, in the Jahanabad sub-division, but I am unaware of any grounds for the assertion that the price of liquor has been lowered, as the outstill system has long been in force there. I believe the assertion to be untrue.

Haripal.*—From Haripal a correspondent says that drunkenness has increased among the low caste people, who are seen lying about drunk. I spent eight days at Haripal, and saw nothing of the kind, and my servants, who have been travelling about with me for two months, tell me that they have never seen any tipsy people about, either at Haripal or anywhere else. The old woman, who kept a *modee's* shop close to my camp on a road on which I saw much traffic, told me she never saw any tipsy people. The police, however, at the thana close by deposed to seeing a good many. The average amount of liquor sold monthly by the outstill is four times what was taken by the four shops which it has displaced.† Haripal is a large village close to a railway station on the Tarkeshwar line, and the area used to receive outstill liquor from the Jahanabad sub-division. The site is between the bazar and the railway station.

Sreepoor.‡—From Sreepoor, a large village, which may almost be called a town, in the north of Hooghly, separated by the river only from the district of Nuddea, a correspondent, besides writing of an awful increase of drunkenness and immorality, of abusive and obscene songs, and of drunken men being seen naked at the bathing ghâts, gives an instance of a "beautiful young wife," whose modesty some drunken men threatened to outrage, and of some boys who were attracted by an offer of a bottle of liquor. I saw the husband of the woman in question, a blacksmith, who is himself in the habit of drinking spirits, and he said that his wife was going to the ghât when drunken men ran after her, and she ran away. I did not see the woman herself, and the husband had not seen what happened, but I think it quite possible that she was frightened by merely seeing noisy tipsy men, and ran away, without their having any design against her. Another man, also a blacksmith, told me that his son's wife was going out for water when she saw four or five tipsy men outside; she drew back hastily and shut the door, and the men hammered on it till the blacksmith went out and ordered them off. They were probably only stimulated to mischief by the woman's terror, and had no evil design. Making all allowance however for exaggeration, I can well conceive what a nuisance it must be for timid Bengalee women to see tipsy men about. The writer of the letter about the boys came to me. He is a schoolboy, who declares

* *See* notes of visit to Haripal, page 93.
† *See* Table I, page 24.
‡ *See* notes of visit to Sreepoor, page 65.

his age to be 19. The truth of the story, he says, is that he and two friends wanted the Jaliya boys, who were nine or ten years' old, to race boats for their amusement, that the boys would not do it for pice, but would do it for liquor. I presume that, if the pice offered had been equal to the price of liquor, they would have been accepted. All that the anecdote proves is that little boys of the Jaliya caste will drink liquor when they can get it, but that they would not do so if there were no outstill is by no means proven. I consider the site of the outstill in a crowded bazar to be very objectionable. The sub-inspector of police, who has been there for six years, is of opinion that drinking has increased near the outstill, but not at a distance. The head-master of the school, aged only 23, said that he sees much drunkenness, but not more than he sees at his home in the district of Beerbhoom, six miles from an outstill. The second master sees many of the lower classes drunk, not of the higher classes. A zemindar, a very good witness, says that while shop liquor used to cost Re. 1 or Re. 1-2 per bottle, liquor smuggled from Burdwan and Nuddea used to be sold at eight annas; that since the outstill was opened he sees more tipsy people on the road. He does not attempt to say that there was no drinking before, and even admits that women drank, and I fully accept his statement that there is more visible drunkenness. One of the blacksmiths, whom I mentioned before, also deposed to an increase in the number of tipsy men seen on the road, and the other blacksmith, who himself drinks spirits, told me that it was the custom formerly to go for liquor to Chogdah or Kaleegunj, and to drink it there, never bringing any home. He could not be expected to admit that he used to smuggle, but from his evidence the fact is established that, previous to the existence of the outstill, the people of the neighbourhood could obtain and consume spirits without any tipsy people being seen about. They could drink either at a distance, or in the privacy of their own *barees*. An elderly Jaliya told me that formerly not so much liquor was drunk as now, because people had to go further for it, and had to drink it secretly. The price, however, of outstill liquor here appears now to be rather higher than it used to be at the outstills of Burdwan and Nuddea. Six chowkidars told me that there was no drinking in their villages, which are within two miles of the outstill. They probably lied. Three more admitted that their neighbours of low castes drink, but averred that there is neither more nor less drinking than there used to be. A shopkeeper said that he now sees a good many people tipsy, and never saw any before, because people took their liquor home. I consider that there is no proof of increase in drinking, but that more tipsy people are seen about than there used to be. The books at the outstill show average monthly sales of 883 bottles, while the two shops which it displaced took only 91 bottles, of exactly the same average strength, from the distillery.* This is not surprising when outstill liquor could be obtained at four or five annas, or at most eight annas a bottle within two or three miles.

Chonditala†.—The next correspondent quoted writes from Chonditala in the Serampore subdivision. He asserts that the distiller is allowed to make six gallons of liquor a day, and pays Rs. 14 per day for it. He really pays a monthly fee of Rs. 400, which is from Rs. 12-12 to Rs. 14-11 per day, but which he must pay whether he distills or not He is restricted to the use of from 24 to 36 fermenting jars, each of 30 gallons fluid capacity, which is calculated to allow him 90 distillations, each of 30 seers material, working off 67½ maunds in the month. This, on the generally accepted calculation, would give an outturn of 202½ gallons of spirits (London-proof), or at the average strength of 24 under proof, which I found to be his real outturn, 266 gallons. This he certainly has generally exceeded. I measured his jars to contain 33 instead of 30 gallons, and instead of 30 seers he puts 40 seers into each. His average outturn has been 307 gallons per month, strength on an average 24 below proof.‡ So far the correspondent is correct. He goes on to say that the outstill has depraved the morals of the people. I find that the average monthly outturn now is three or four times what the seven shops displaced by the outstill used to take in the previous year, and after allowing for the fact that much liquor is now probably smuggled from the outstill into town, the figures point to an increase in consumption. Except in one shop, which took liquor

* *See* Table I, page 24.
† *See* notes of visit to Chonditala, page 55.
‡ *See* Table I, page 25.

averaging in strength 29·93 under proof, the liquor of 1886-87 averaged only 19 below proof,* while that of the outstill averages 23·7. The difference is not important, giving only 106 bottles of the latter to 100 of the former strength. It is further alleged that men from drinking leave their families destitute, that schoolboys drink, and that tipsy men are a nuisance, making a noise, quarrelling, and throwing stones. I found on my way to Chonditala from the south-west on the 5th January that the people on the road did not expect me, and I give full credit to what I heard of an increase in the number of tipsy men coming along from Chonditala at night making a noise and doing mischief, principally men of the lower castes, but some of the higher also. I heard the same when coming to Chonditala again from the south-east on the 4th February, and also of people giving up *taree* and taking to spirits. The sub-inspector of police said that more tipsy people are seen on the road, and that boys of 13 and 14 drink. A Brahman from Jonai, three miles off, said that the lower classes drink more, but not the middle classes. That boys drink, but that they also did so before, and he could not say that they drink more now. That none of the Jonai schoolboys drink, that more tipsy people are seen about, and that thefts have become common. Two Moira shopkeepers deposed to seeing more tipsy people on the road. A Gonddhobonik, who drinks himself, said the same, but that people do not lie about drunk as they did when the outstill was first opened. Another Brahman from Jonai said that he never saw such crowds of people at the Jonai shop as he now sees at the outstill, that Brahmans and Kayasths in his village who never drank before drink now, but not publicly, but that among the lower classes many more are seen drunk than before. This man, who appeared very frank and desirous to tell me the truth, said that he never heard of drinking among schoolboys or of distress in families. A Brahman of Borijhatee had heard a Kahar's wife complain that she and the children were starving, all the earnings being spent in drink. This man also spoke of a schoolboy once getting drunk, and, like other witnesses, to great increase in visible drunkenness. I found afterwards that the said schoolboy had ceased to be a schoolboy before the outstill was opened, and the schoolmaster said that he did not suspect any of his boys of drinking. A zemindar told me that his tenants, Doolees and Keyoras, had taken to drinking only since the outstill was opened, which I am unable to believe, and he said that in three cases women had complained of want of food in consequence of their husbands' drinking, and that such things did not happen before. He never heard of schoolboys drinking. A dealer in molasses said that he had seen two Brahman boys, whom he named, of from twelve to fifteen, drunk twice, four or five months ago. The schoolmaster of Baloohatee said that he suspected none of his boys of drinking, but he said generally that the use of spirituous liquors was becoming more common among the younger generation.

Jhaporda.†—From Jhaporda a correspondent writes (1) that there has been an increase in drunkenness and immorality; (2) that the labouring classes spend so much on drink as to reduce their families to starvation; (3) that many "gentlemen" get drunk and render themselves public nuisances, lying insensible on the road; (4) that many trespass into their neighbours' premises at night with bad motives; (5) that drivers of hackney carriages get drunk, and cause annoyance to their passengers; that (6) affrays and petty thefts are of almost daily occurrence; that (7) a boy of 12, who is named, once got drunk, and lay insensible on the road. I stayed for six days at Jhaporda, otherwise known as Domjor, and also passed through it some weeks later. I consider the site of the outstill most objectionable. It is in the middle of a daily bazar, the whole atmosphere of which is saturated with the smell of liquor, and it is on the main road to the westward from Howrah, being about seven miles distant from the boundary of the urban (central distillery) area. The average monthly amount of liquor taken out of the distillery in 1886-87 for the area now served by the outstill was only 159 bottles, while the books of the outstill now show average monthly sales of over fourteen hundred, the average strength of the outstill liquor being greater ‡ This at first sight appears sufficiently serious, as indicating increased consumption of liquor by the public, but there are several considerations which

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* *See* Table I, page 25.
† *See* notes of visit to Jhaporda, pages 49 and 53.
‡ *See* Table I page 25.

must modify such a conclusion, and induce a belief that on the one hand only a portion of the liquor now produced at the outstill is consumed locally, and on the other that the consumers formerly obtained a large quantity of liquor from the outstills of the 24-Pergunnahs. The average strength of the liquor taken out in 1886-87 was more than thirty-four degrees below proof, indicating local consumption by the lower classes, while the weakest sample of outstill liquor which I tested was less than twenty-seven degrees below proof, and the average strength is probably about twenty-two degrees, being a comparatively strong spirit which will pay the cost of carriage to a distance, and which better meets the requirements of shops supplying an urban population than a weaker liquor. The excise officers believe that much liquor is smuggled from the outstill at Jhaporda into the town of Howrah, and I think they are right. Whatever the amount so smuggled may be, it must be deducted from the monthly average of 1,427 bottles before we can rightly estimate the present local consumption. The reason which may induce the urban vendors to obtain their liquor from a distant outstill rather than from a central distillery is that while the monthly fee of Rs. 425 paid by the Jhaporda outstill amounts to a duty of Rs. 2-4 only on the gallon of London-proof spirit, the distillery liquor pays a duty of Rs. 4 per gallon in Hooghly and Rs. 5 in Howrah and Calcutta. On the other hand, the quantity of duty-paying liquor, shown as drawn from the distillery in 1886-87 by the local shops, by no means represents the total local consumption, because much liquor is known to have been smuggled up from the river Hooghly, by a convenient *khal*, from the outstills on the eastern bank. The amount of the liquor so smuggled cannot be accurately known. Besides these two causes which I know to affect a comparison of the figures, it may reasonably be suspected that a certain amount of liquor was, by the dishonesty of the local officers, passed out of the distilleries without the payment of duty. The number of unknown quantities which I have to consider prevents my making any accurate calculation, but it is undoubted that whereas the liquor legally sold cost formerly from Re. 1 to Re. 1-4 per bottle, and whereas the risks of smuggling must then have limited the consumption of outstill liquor, an unlimited quantity of liquor can now be bought at eight annas the bottle, or even less, and consumption must therefore have increased, but I am unable to believe that it has been doubled. I found that the only evidence beyond hearsay, which the correspondent of the Indian Association was able to give me, was that he had often seen drivers of hackney carriages tipsy since April and never before. A Brahman schoolmaster stated that the number of persons drinking spirits now is from five to ten times what it was, which I am unable to believe. Another man who stated that people drink now who were never known to drink before was unable to give me a single name, and I heard many assertions equally loose and vague. The same man said fairly enough that he sees more tipsy people now than before, but that he cannot say whether those people used to drink before or not. The Sub-Inspector of Police says that the lower classes drink more than they did, that many more are seen intoxicated in public than formerly, and that those of the higher classes who drink have increased their comsumption. One Piyaree Lal Kobiraj, who is an habitual drunkard, told me that all classes now drink more; that the better classes drink in private, but that people of the low castes are seen tumbling about the road much more since the liquor became cheap. A respectable elderly Brahman said that he sees ten or a dozen people tumbling about the road every day, and that those who before drank secretly now do so openly, in both the higher and lower classes. A shopkeeper said that the better class of people drink less, because the new liquor has an objectionable smell, but that low-caste people now make a noise on the road daily which was never the case before. Another shop keeper said that he sees half a dozen tipsy people on the road every two or three days, never having seen such a thing before, and that he has seen fifteen low-caste men lying drunk on the road within a month. Making all due allowance for exaggeration and for the very strong feeling which has been aroused against the outstill in this place, I cannot refuse to believe that the number of tipsy people seen about is much greater than it was before the outstill was opened, but beyond a general belief, I have not met with positive evidence that the amount of drinking is greater. I think it probable from the cheapening of liquor that it is so, but I do not believe

that the increase in drinking or intoxication is nearly so great as the increase in the number of tipsy people seen in public. That (2) families are reduced to starvation by the amount of money spent in drink is an exaggeration. The schoolmaster says that the families of some Doolees have been in distress, but he does not know whether the Doolees drank before or not, while it is proved and acknowledged that Piyaree Lal, whose family was mentioned, has always drunk hard, and never maintained his family. No other witness knew of any distress caused by drinking. The allegation (3) respecting "gentlemen" being drunk in public was found to refer principally to Piyaree Lal aforesaid, but a case was mentioned of a Brahman who lay drunk in the bazar, and was robbed of his money. Another Brahman, named Bhogwan Chondro Banerjee, a well-known drunkard, has been seen lying drunk. Another Brahman was seen lying drunk in a stable, and there is ample evidence that Brahmans, Kayasths, and Boidyos are seen among the tipsy people on the road. I could not hear of a single case to support the statement, (4) that many persons trespass into their neighbours' premises at night with bad motives, and two witnesses said that they had never heard of such a thing. One man said that three or four men had fallen down drunk in the *baree* of a man he named, and that he had heard they went to call a woman out and knocked at the door. That three or four drunken men tumbled into a *baree* is likely enough, but that they should in such a state have gone there with any improper design towards a woman appears to me improbable. To believe it I should require much clearer evidence than I obtained. The schoolmaster mentioned two persons into whose premises drunken men had trespassed, but there was no indication of bad motive. With reference to drivers of hackney carriages, (5) one case was mentioned, in which a driver who was drunk annoyed a female passenger, and was convicted of an offence by a Magistrate. As this was only one of numerous instances of drunkenness mentioned, and as I am inquiring not whether drunkenness exists, but whether it has increased since the outstill was opened, I have not thought it necessary to verify the case by reference to the Magistrate. It is sufficiently proved that (6) noise and quarrelling have increased, and many witnesses seem really to believe that petty thefts of such property as garden produce have increased, but such thefts are not reported to the police, and people's attention has been drawn to the subject specially this year, in the course of the agitation against the outstill, as it never was before, and I feel it impossible to say whether such thefts are really more common than they used to be or not. It is equally impossible to prove any connection between such increase, if there be any, and the cheapness of liquor. Respecting (7), the case of the boy Rakhal Chondro Chatterjee, I found that no such boy existed, and the correspondent said that he referred to a boy who was the son of Bhogwan Chondro Banerjee, the drunken Brahman previously mentioned. There is some evidence at this place as to young boys drinking spirits and getting drunk, to which I shall return when I discuss this branch of the general subject.

Jogotbollobhpoor.*—The statements made by the correspondent from Jogotbollobhpoor are too general to require particular examination, except as regards the site of the outstill. It is not so near the school as the language of the letter quoted might be thought to imply, and is on the other side of the river. The objection to it lies in the fact that it is at the point where important roads from the north-west and south-west converge at the end of the bridge which leads through Jogotbollobhpoor to Howrah and Calcutta.

Having so far discussed the evidence which has been brought forward in support of the specific allegations made by correspondents of the Indian Association, I will go on to examine the more general charges against the outstill system, which resemble very closely those examined by the Excise Commission (Report volume i, page 78).

3. Allegation that the agricultural and labouring classes in the villages have always been distinguished for sobriety.—It is not easy, especially when most of the evidence available is that of inaccurate observers, to compare the state of things in the past with what it is at present, or to ascertain the extent to which drinking habits prevailed among any classes

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* *See* notes of visit to Jogotbollobhpoor, page 86.

of the community before public attention was drawn to the question. There is, however, ample evidence that the use of spirituous liquors by a large proportion of the classes into which the agricultural community is divided is no new thing. The Indian Association appears to use the terms "sober" and "sobriety" to indicate total abstinence from intoxicants; in this sense it cannot with truth be said of the agricultural or labouring classes in rural villages, that they have always been distinguished for sobriety. The evidence recorded in the Appendix shows that this is very far from being the case. I do not, however, admit that the use of intoxicating liquor generally involves drunkenness. My own impressions on this point have been materially modified in the course of this enquiry, and I am now satisfied that whatever may be the case among the *bhodro lok*, very many among the labouring classes habitually drink spirits in moderation and without becoming intoxicated, and that the term *matal* has been used without justice to include every one who drinks spirits or *taree*. Witnesses who speak English have used the word "drunkard" in an equally loose manner, and in their mouths the term has not by any means the same sense in which an Englishman would use it. There is much force in a remark made by Mr. Toynbee, who has known the district of Hooghly for five years, and whose statement will be found in the appendix,* that a distinction must be made between landholding ryots and landless labourers, even when the caste is the same. The improvidence which permits a man to spend a large part of his income on liquor disappears with the possession of land, and my knowledge of the district of Howrah enables me to corroborate Mr. Toynbee's testimony, that land-holding ryots are by no means addicted to intemperance, or to the use of intoxicating liquors to any extent. The agricultural classes, however, include the landless labourers, to whom we must give a very different character. The total population of the two districts, excluding railway passengers, was found by the census of 1881 to be 1,647,479. Of these, the Bagdees, Bourees, Chamars or Mochees, Chanrals, Doms, Dosadhs, Harees, Jaliyas and Kahars amount to 290,280, or more than one-sixth. All these castes drink. The Mahomedans amount to 320,916 and the Koibortos to 298,179. Many of these are most respectable and sober people, but the lower classes of them are addicted to the use of intoxicating liquor, either *taree* or distilled spirit. I do not think it would be an excessive estimate to say that for many years past, not more than three-fifths of the adult males among the agricultural population throughout the district have been total abstainers from spirituous or fermented liquor. Witness after witness, taken from the educated classes, admits that the *choto lok* always drank, and Mahomedans, while saying that men of their own religion rarely drink anything but *taree*, speak of habitual drinking among the Hindoos as an incontestable and universally admitted fact. The appendix will show how many witnesses of the above mentioned low castes I have examined, and how all, with rare exceptions, say that, though the cheapness of outstill liquor has enabled them to increase their consumption, they have always been in the habit of drinking spirits. While admitting the sobriety of the land-holding portion of the agricultural classes, I must decline altogether to allow that total abstinence from the use of intoxicants has been a characteristic of the landless labourers.

4. Allegation that in the neighbourhood of outstills those classes are losing their sobriety.—I have met with no evidence whatever of any loss of sobriety among the land-holding ryots, or any indication that the cheapness of liquor has induced them to become consumers of it. The landless labourers, especially among the castes which I have enumerated, have for generations been drinkers of spirituous liquor, according to their means. The establishment of jute mills and other industries, affording increased employment to labour at high wages, has within comparatively recent years enormously improved their position, and enabled them to increase their expenditure on liquor as well as on other objects, and the growth of intemperance among them has been the subject of remark long before the establishment of outstills in April 1887. Before that date country spirit was sold at a number of licensed shops, which obtained it from central distilleries on payment not only of a duty of four rupees on the gallon of London-proof spirit, but of monthly license fees, and the retail price ranged

* Page 119.

from Re. 1 and Re. 1-4 per bottle, according to strength, in the interior, and on the borders, where it came into competition with smuggled outstill liquor, from twelve to fourteen annas the bottle, there being six bottles in the gallon. The surrounding districts of Nuddea, Burdwan, Midnapore, and the 24-Pergunnahs, and the Jahanabad subdivision of the district of Hooghly, were under the outstill system producing liquor which appears to have paid, in the shape of license fees, duty of about two rupees the gallon of London-proof spirit. I do not mean that the liquor produced either in the distilleries or in outstills was of London-proof strength, or anything near it, but the duty on distillery liquor was calculated in proportion to the actual strength at the rate of four rupees on the gallon of London-proof, and I have calculated the duty realised on outstill liquor in a corresponding manner. For instance, if I find that one hundred gallons of which the strength is 30 below proof are paying in license fees a duty of Rs. 200, I calculate that the liquor is paying Rs. 2-13-8 on the gallon London-proof. Several of these shops, if not all, took out of the distilleries only enough liquor to show a plausible profit, and to prevent the withdrawal of their licenses, and drew the bulk of their supplies from the outstills beyond the border. In selling, however, they made no distinction between outstill and distillery liquor, and the necessity of showing plausible profits kept up their prices to those at which they might be expected to sell distillery liquor. Of the amount of outstill liquor sold in the licensed shops, I am unable to form any estimate. The evidence proves that in the licensed shops liquor was sold at much higher prices than in the outstills beyond the border, but most of it was probably sold to the better classes, the lower classes resorting to the outstills. That they did obtain much of their liquor from the outstills, the low-caste witnesses living near the border have freely admitted, but they say that they drank it only at the outstills, and naturally will not admit, what doubtless was the fact, that they smuggled large quantities of liquor to drink at home. The number of places at which liquor might be legitimately obtained has been reduced, as shown in Table I (page 24) and a certain proportion of the consumers have had to go so much further for their drink. The price of liquor at those places has been reduced by half, and near the border by more than half, as was to be expected when the Government duty was reduced by half, as I shall show to have been the case. The consumers, who could only occasionally afford to pay a rupee for a bottle of liquor, can now get it quite as good for eight annas, and this without any of the risk or trouble of smuggling it from an outstill beyond the border, or the inconvenience of getting drunk at a distance from home. Under these circumstances, it is not surprising that I find ample evidence that those who drank liquor before now drink more. They get it more cheaply and more conveniently, and the fact of increased drinking is admitted by the consumers themselves. From this, however, it would not be safe to infer that drunkenness has increased in like proportion. Visible drunkenness has undoubtedly increased in the neighbourhood of the outstills, if not elsewhere, and it is this chiefly which has attracted attention, and raised a clamour against the outstills. In former days it appears to have been the custom, even among the lower classes, instead of sitting down at the shop for a drink, to buy a bottle, or half a bottle, and take it home, and not to drink it all at once, but to eke it out in a number of moderate instalments. Now it appears to be rather the custom to go and drink at the outstill a certain number of pice worth, not by any means always enough to produce intoxication, or even tipsiness, but enough to produce the feeling of exhilaration spoken of as *goolabee nisha*, which does not prevent a man's walking straight or take away his appetite. But though I believe much of the drinking to be in comparative moderation, and that the comprehensive term of "*matal*" has been used by many of the witnesses to include persons who were only slightly tipsy, and though I allow for a great deal of exaggeration and misrepresentation, there is sufficient evidence that tipsy and drunken men are seen near the outstills, and on the roads leading to them, in very much larger numbers than were ever seen before, and that men are occasionally seen lying on the road in a state of beastly intoxication. That the changes introduced by the outstill system have led people to drink who did not drink before I doubt. The evidence to this effect is slight and vague, and though it may be possible that some few of the labouring classes who did not drink before drink now,

I am satisfied that there has been no serious change in this direction. Even if there were a tendency, it could not have been developed within eight or nine months to the extent which has been alleged. It is proved that the drinking classes drink oftener, and that they are seen oftener in a state of intoxication in public, but it is not proved that they really get intoxicated more or oftener than before, or that sober people have taken to drinking. The increase in visible intoxication, moreover, is to a great extent confined to the immediate neighbourhood of the outstills and the roads leading to them, and there is little or no proof that it has extended to other places.

5. Allegation that almost everywhere persons lie dead drunk on the roads near the outstills.—I heard evidence to this effect at every outstill I visited, and after making full allowance for exaggeration, I think it must be true that such a sight is seen occasionally.

6. Allegation that outrages are attempted on passers-by.—I think that the word "outrage" is far too strong a term to use. Tipsy men on the road, especially at the outstills, are undoubtedly a nuisance, but I have no reliable evidence of any outrage. Women have been frightened, and possibly tipsy men have teased them and amused themselves with their terror, but I know of no cases in which I could believe in any serious criminal design. Women are afraid to go to the *ghat* for water when they see noisy, tipsy men about. In one case a tipsy man appears to have touched women in a crowded *mela*, and he probably did so in an offensive manner. Two cases have been mentioned in which tipsy youths appear deliberately to have insulted women by exposing their persons, but these are extreme and exceptional cases. Several indignant Baboos spoke of the familiar manner in which tipsy men accost them, ask them to stop and hear them sing, and beg them to try to get liquor further cheapened. An old gentleman, coming from his garden with flowers, has been accosted and frightened, vegetables that were being brought to market have been thrown on the ground, but I have heard little or nothing of what can properly be called "outrage."

7. Allegation that quarrelling and fighting and crime have increased.—I have already stated my belief that there has been a considerable increase in visible intoxication, and in connection with that there is doubtless quarrelling and noise, but otherwise there is no evidence on this point. At nearly every outstill attempts had been made to collect evidence for me, and one subject on which nearly every witness was prepared to depose was the increase in the number of petty thefts, especially thefts of garden and orchard produce. I was informed repeatedly that there had been such an increase, but I am not at all convinced that it is the case. These petty thefts have recently been carefully observed and remembered for the purposes of my enquiry, whereas formerly they would pass unnoticed, each one being known to a small circle only, so that without any wish on the part of deponents to deceive me, I do not consider their evidence worth serious consideration. There were other witnesses loud in denunciation of the outstills, of whom I must speak with less respect, and of whom a man at Sarenga may serve as a specimen. This worthy, a violent exponent of the evils called into existence by the outstill, spoke of an enormous increase in the number of thefts, but when cross-examined could only remember one theft of a duck. He did not know whose duck it was, or who stole it, or whether the thief was a drinking man or not. Even if the fact had been established that the number of thefts had recently increased, their connection with outstill liquor would remain obscure. There are some statements made with reference to tipsy men going into people's premises after the women, especially at Krishtonogor, but though it appeared to be true that drunken men had gone into people's *barees*, there was not a particle of evidence that they did so with improper designs upon the women. The allegations as to increase in crime, and especially in crime connected with drunkenness, appear to be quite unfounded, though they have been vaguely repeated by numerous witnesses. The police and Magistrates know nothing of it.

8. Allegation that liquor which used to cost a rupee now costs four annas. That this was found to be the fact at Haripal.—It is true that liquor has become very much cheaper since the substitution of outstills for licensed shops without any corresponding reduction in the

strength of it. In Table III, page 31, I have shown, as nearly as I have been able to calculate it, the average duty which the distillers are now paying in the form of license fees, assuming the accounts of sales shown in their books to be correct. If they have understated their sales, the duty is so much the lighter. The shop vendors who paid a duty of four rupees on the gallon (London-proof) and a distillery fee of one anna, and also paid the distillers thirteen annas a gallon for their liquor, obviously could not sell so cheaply as the distillers at outstills do now, when they pay a duty of only two rupees or less, and when they also secure the difference between the actual cost of production of liquor and the price at which the distillers in the central distillery sold to the vendors. It may be saidthat the licensed shop-keepers could sell the outstill liquor which they smuggled at a lower price than that which they took out from the central distillery, but this is not the case. They were obliged ostensibly to sell distillery liquor, and dared not sell any liquor at all at a price at which distillery liquor would not yield them a profit. I have only been able to show the average strength at which liquor was taken out of the central distillery by each shop. I believe that from the distillery accounts the actual strength of each consignment of liquor could be ascertained, but the limited time at my disposal prevents my drawing out a statement of maximum and minimum strengths. In the interior of the districts, where consumers could not so easily obtain outstill liquor from beyond the border, the shop liquor used to be sold at from Re. 1 to Re. 1-4 the bottle, and in the same localities I find that the outstills are selling liquor, which I believe to be of the same strengths, at exactly half the prices, namely at eight and ten annas the bottle. Although in Table I (page 24) I have shown lower prices, always taking the lowest to which consumers deposed, I believe the general fact to be that liquor is now, in places distant from the border just half the price it used to be where the strength remains the same. Consumption has increased accordingly, and revenue has been sacrificed to an extent which, I think, I shall presently be able to show to have been unnecessary. Near the borders the shops were obliged to reduce their prices by the fear of driving their customers to the outstills of other districts, and by smuggling in outstill liquor themselves were enabled to do it without loss. The amount of liquor they took from the distilleries was only enough to show plausible accounts of profit. It will be seen from Table I that these shops used to sell at from twelve to fourteen annas the bottle; in rare instances I heard of sales at ten annas. The retail prices at the present outstills, and also at former shops, I have ascertained from both men and women who are and have been consumers, and I am confident that they are fairly correct. Table I shows that in the outstills near the frontier the price of the cheaper liquor has fallen by more than half, namely from twelve to four and five annas the bottle, but that liquor which used to cost a rupee now costs only four annas is untrue. The liquor which now costs four annas probably never cost more than twelve annas, if so much, and that which used to cost a rupee is probably never sold for less than eight annas. The Indian Association has been unfortunate in selecting Haripal as an instance, as the only liquor sold there at four annas is *mahawa* liquor, which I found to be 58·9 below proof, and I doubt whether this liquor ever cost much more than it does now. Haripal is the only outstill, within the area over which my enquiry extends, at which liquor is produced from anything but molasses. The molasses liquor at Haripal is not sold for less than six annas, and the lowest strength is 39·3 below proof. The assertions as to reduction of price have been exaggerated, but it is nevertheless true that liquor has been greatly cheapened, and consumption thereby encouraged. We must not, however, forget that in the localities where outstill liquor is now cheapest, consumers were in former years by no means dependent on the shop liquor, but could get liquor as cheaply as now by going to the outstills across the border. So long as these outstills exist in adjoining tracts, and pay as low a duty as they pay now, it will be impossible to make the adjoining outstills at Hooghly and Howrah pay as high a duty as those further from the border, or as high as is justified by the prosperous condition of the people.

9. Allegation that the outstill system has induced habits of intemperance among women.—The evidence which I have collected on this point will be found at length in the appendix. The conclusions at which I have arrived are precisely similar to those of the Excise Commission as stated

on page 78 of volume I of their report. Prostitutes drink now as they always have drunk. Women of the drinking classes—Keyoras, Harees, Jaliyas, Doolees, Bagdees, Boonwas, Bourees, Chanrals, Mehters, low Mahomedans (Dumpodars) Mochees, and low Koiborttos, always drank spirits when they could get them, and drink more now on account of the cheapness of liquor. A Bouree at Bhastora, speaking of the cheapness of liquor, said that they were able now to let their women drink a little with them, which they could not when it was a more expensive luxury. Very few witnesses speak of women being among the tipsy people seen in public. Among Boonwas and Dhangors on their travels women are seen to drink, but never in such a drunken state as some of the men. Occasionally a Jaliya woman, after selling her fish in the market, may go to the outstill for drink. The principal opponent of the outstill at Haripal said that he once saw women lying drunk among a number of men at the outstill, but he could not say whether there were two or one, and as he says he never saw such a thing but once, I cannot but think that if he had really seen one woman or two lying drunk he would have retained a more distinct impression of it. Those witnesses who spoke to seeing women tipsy, or drinking liquor, had generally seen them on their own premises, and even prostitutes rarely drink in public or go abroad in an intoxicated condition. At Kantapokhor I heard of a case in which a drunken Brahman had compelled his unhappy wife to take liquor and made her drunk, but otherwise the rumours of women of the higher classes drinking have been of the vaguest and most insignificant description. I can only say that women, who have always taken liquor when they could, have been able to drink a little more since the introduction of outstills, but that there is not much intemperance among them, and that it is rare to see a drunken woman in public.

10. Allegation that the outstill system has induced schoolboys and boys of ten or twelve to take to drinking.—The Excise Commission was satisfied (Report page 78, volume I) that in Bengal schoolboys did not drink to any appreciable extent, and I have arrived at the same conclusion. All the evidence which I have collected on the subject will be found in the appendix. Eighteen out of twenty school-masters whom I examined said that they do not suspect any of their boys of drinking, and I have noted particularly the opinion of a native member of the Excise Commission (Report, page 202, volume I) that during the period of study the Bengalee boy does not drink, and that the taste for drink is not contracted till after college life. At Ooloobériya I was told of three boys being expelled, and at Dwarbasinee of three boys who were not found drunk, but who were said to have once drunk liquor. At Singoor a boy, who had run away, was said to have drunk liquor, and a boy was expelled from a *patshala* at Bagnan for drinking. Generally I do not find any ground for saying that schoolboys have taken to drinking. At Amta a teacher in the school said that the boys used *gunja*, but I did not hear of this anywhere else. Exclusive of schoolboys, I heard much of boys of the lower classes drinking, but in many cases the so-called boys were found to be twenty or twenty-five years of age, and still more often about sixteen. A witness at Sarenga, after making the usual loose statements of all the boys in the country being corrupted by drink, could only name two, aged sixteen and eighteen, and a third of thirteen or fourteen who had once been seen drunk at a *mela*. A few instances have been mentioned of drunkenness among boys of the better classes, but nothing like widespread depravity. Among the drinking classes the case is less satisfactory, and I fear that it is true that many boys of ten or twelve drink whenever they get the chance, and that the cheapness of outstill liquor has enabled them to do so much oftener than they used to. Liquor is sold to boys, and the vendors at the outstills excuse themselves by saying that they believe them to be sent by their elders to fetch it. If there really exists the widespread indignation against outstills which is spoken of by the correspondents of the Indian Association, it is curious that no one has taken the trouble to inform against any particular vendor for selling liquor to children. I think it extremely probable that the cheapness of outstill liquor has enabled boys to drink who could rarely or never have done so at former prices, and I do not disbelieve the evidence that since the outstills were opened tipsy boys are seen much oftener than was the case before.

11. **Allegation that the poverty of the agricultural and labouring classes is notorious, and that on account of the outstills the people are less able to pay their dues to the Zemindar and to the State, or to support their families.**—I find that the poverty of the classes in question is by no means notorious. On the contrary, the result of recent inquiries has satisfied Mr. Toynbee and Mr. Oldham that the people not only have an ample supply of food, but spend largely on marriages and other festivities, and that rents are high. My own knowledge of Howrah enables me to take the same view, and I am also satisfied that although the cheapness of liquor enables the people to drink more than they used to, few, if any of them, spend more money on it than they did when there were no outstills. The evidence of consumers is quite clear on this point. They always bought as much liquor as they could afford, and they can afford to buy more since the price has been lowered. I have inquired particularly everywhere as to the existence of distress among the drinking classes, and in the appendix will be found the replies of numerous witnesses. Setting vague rumours aside, I find that among Doolees and Bagdees zemindars asking for their rents are met with the excuse that all the money has been spent in drink, and there are instances of women begging for money on the same plea. It is scarcely necessary to say that money which is spent in drink is not available for other expenditure, but I do not find that under the outstill system more is so spent than was the case when less liquor could be purchased for the same money. It must be admitted that with cheap liquor the use of it is likely to extend, and that eventually, unless the price is raised, more money will be spent upon it, but I do not find that in the short time that has elapsed since April 1887, when outstills were introduced, much mischief, if any, has been done, and I believe that it may be entirely checked if we can succeed in raising the price of liquor without driving the people to illicit distillation.

12. **On the question whether drinking has increased among the upper classes.**—I have heard many general statements that drinking has increased among the upper classes, the *bhodro lok*, or Baboos (terms for which it is difficult to find an English equivalent), but I have met with very little actual information. Although there are occasionally *bhodro lok* among the tipsy people seen on the roads, or in the groups drinking at the outstills, these classes generally drink on their own premises, and none but their immediate neighbours can know much about it. I do not think it probable that the cheapening of liquor has affected their consumption of it as it has that of the poorer classes, to whom the difference between four pice and eight pice is considerable.

13. **History of the introduction of outstills in Hooghly and Howrah.**—In the letter from the Board of Revenue to Government, No. 810 of 23rd September 1886, the system of excise on country liquor in Hooghly and Howrah is fully discussed. It appears that in 1878-79 the outstill system had been re-introduced into most of the adjoining districts, including Burdwan, to which the sub-division of Jahanabad then belonged, but on the representations of Mr. Pellew, Collector of Hooghly, and Mr. Cornish, Covenanted Deputy Collector of Howrah, it had been resolved that Hooghly and Howrah should for a time remain under the sudder distillery system. On the 1st July 1878 the sub-division of Jahanabad was transferred to Hooghly, and continued to be under the outstill system. In November 1878 the Collector of Hooghly represented the injurious effect of the outstills in Burdwan on the sale of sudder distillery liquor in the north-west of his district. The Commissioner was of opinion that there were no sufficient grounds for the introduction of the outstill system into any part of the Hooghly district. The Board of Revenue considered it enough to keep a neutral zone as wide as possible between the two systems, to reduce the rate of duty on liquor sold in the frontier shops of Hooghly, and to allow no outstill to remain open on the Burdwan frontier at a lower rate than Rs. 16 per month at least. Further representations being made in June 1880, the Board ordered preparation to be made for the entire abolition of the sudder distillery system throughout Hooghly and Howrah from the 1st April 1881. This measure, however, was not carried out, the Board apparently expecting a certain change in the law

effected by Act IV (B.C.) of 1881 to check the introduction of outstill liquor into sudder distillery areas. In 1881 further representations were made respecting the introduction of outstill liquor into Howrah from the 24-Pergunnahs. All that was done was to fix limits under section 9 of the Excise Act. Nothing more was done till 1886, when it was proposed that with the exception of the riparian tract, which is principally urban, from the Mugra khal in the north of Hooghly to the southern limits of the Howrah Municipality, the whole of Hooghly and Howrah should be brought under the outstill system. It was hoped that with a neutral zone of six miles, within which no outstill or liquor shop should be allowed, and with improved inspecting and detective establishments, very little smuggling could be attempted or successful. These hopes have not been fulfilled, and I attribute the disappointment to the great difference between the duties on liquor in the distillery area on the one hand and the outstill area on the other. The Board supported the proposal for the introduction of the outstill system from the 1st April 1887, and it was sanctioned by Government. In its letter No. 96 of 20th January 1887, the Board of Revenue issued orders as to the manner in which the outstill system was to be introduced, and upon those orders Mr. Toynbee, Collector of Hooghly, who was then in charge of the excise of both districts, issued the following instructions to the Special Deputy Collector:—That the capacities of stills and the number and size of fermenting vessels should be restricted to suit the local demand, allowing for six distillations a day in metal and three in earthen stills; that the use of metal stills, with their capacity marked and registered, should be encouraged, but not enforced; that the capacity of stills should be in round numbers, of 10, 20, 30, &c., gallons, further restrictions being made in the capacity of fermenting vessels; that the upset prices should be calculated according to section 9 of the Board's letter; that outstills should be open till 8 P.M. in the cold and 9 P.M. in the hot season; and that no drinking should be permitted on the premises after 6 P. M. in the cold and 7 P. M. in the hot season. On these and other points the Deputy Collector reported on the 4th February 1887. He recommended the establishment of outstills as follows:—

In Hooghly,	Sudder	sub-division ...	12	outstills in place of		29	shops.
„ „	Serampore	„ ...	8	„	„	37	„
„ Howrah,	Sudder	„ ...	5	„	„	17	„
„ „	Oolooberiya	„ ...	8	„	„	10	„
		Total ...	33			93	„

He represented the difficulty of estimating the actual demand, on account of the unknown quantity of outstill liquor previously smuggled into the distillery area, but he made a certain estimate which my Table II* shows to come fairly near the actual sales which I have ascertained from the accounts of the outstills. He calculated the upset price to be fixed for the license fee of each still at the rate of Rs. 2 per gallon London-proof of the estimated local demand, this being half the rate of duty levied on distillery liquor, and being what was prescribed in the Board's letter to Government, No. 1037 of 30th December 1886. The reason for fixing it so low is stated by the Board in paragraph 14 of that letter, and I will examine it presently. The Collector approved of the Deputy Collector's proposals, and (his No. 707 of 9th February 1887) reported to the Commissioner, asking sanction to an aggregate liquid capacity of 1,400 gallons, calculated to work off 710 seers of material. The sanction of the Board of Revenue was intimated in letter No. 372 of 12th March 1887, and the system was introduced accordingly from 1st April 1887. In his letter No. 368 of 22nd October 1887, the Collector represented the difficulty of selecting unobjectionable sites for outstills, according to paragraph 11(*b*) of Board's letter No. 666 of 2nd June 1886, and on this important subject I must make some remarks. On the 4th November 1887 the Collector submitted a further report to which I shall also have occasion to refer again.

14. On the sites of outstills, and the proposal of the Indian Association to leave their selection to Local Boards.—I have referred to the Board's orders respecting the sites of outstills, given

* Page 27.

in letter No. 666 of 2nd June 1886. It was enjoined that they should be fairly accessible, so as to allow of proper supervision, but that they should not without some good reason be near market places, bathing ghâts, or places of public resort, schools, hospitals, places of worship, or factories, or in the interior of villages, or on the sides of roads leading to bathing ghâts, or places of worship. The Collector of Hooghly, in his letter of 22nd October, represented the difficulty of obtaining sites which were not open to objection, and the subject was further discussed in his report dated the 4th November 1887 (No. 397). I have carefully noted the site of every outstill, and find nearly every one open to objection. Jhaporda, Chonditala, Sreepoor, Oolooberiya, Kharooberiya, Bagnan, Majoo, Sheokhala, Pondooa, and Singoor are all in towns, bazars or market-places, which are pervaded with a very unpleasant smell of liquor, suggesting drinking to those who might not otherwise think of it, and many of them are surrounded by huts in which any amount of illicit fermentation might be carried on, especially where those huts are, as at Oolooberiya, occupied by prostitutes. The outstills at Boinchee, Amta, Jogotbollobhpoor, Krishtonogor, Haripal, Dipa, Tarkeshwar, Bhastora, Dhanyakhalee, and Dasghora are all near bazars and on the roads leading to them, and except Bowreah, Andool, Janda, and Dwarbasinee, every one is on a much-frequented road. On the Old Benares road and possibly on some other main routes, I think these road-side sites should be permitted for the sake of the numerous travellers to and from the western districts, who are accustomed to drink spirits, and who on their way take liquor in moderate quantities without intoxication, but I think that in no other case should an outstill be allowed by the road-side. Had they not been so allowed, there would have been no complaints of disgusting sights of intoxication about the outstills, or of women and other passers-by being annoyed or frightened, and it is possible that some of those who now drink the liquor offered to them by the prominent position of the outstills might not have thought of it. I think that much of the feeling against the outstills expressed by the Indian Association has arisen from their objectionable positions, and that there has been very good reason for it. The Deputy Collector has represented the great difficulty with which licensees would obtain sites for their stills if they were not allowed to use those they now have, which have in many cases been for years past the sites of liquor shops. I am satisfied that at the old liquor shops there was never anything like the amount of drinking that there is at the outstills, whatever may have been the consumption of liquor by the people in their *barees*, and hence the rarity of complaints against them. When the shop was turned into an outstill the place became a public nuisance, and such a clamour has been raised against outstills generally that I think it possible that the zemindars might refuse to give land for them. I think that to remove a public nuisance, and also to remove temptation from people's way, no outstill should be permitted within a certain distance, say one, or perhaps two furlongs, of any town or market-place, or of any road leading thereto. This in a country which is inundated during part of the year would generally necessitate the raising not only of the site of the buildings, but also of a footpath leading to the outstill from the nearest road, and for one year the revenue must suffer by the cost of this work, which the licensee must deduct from what he would otherwise be able to pay to Government. Besides this, no man would care to sink much money in a place which he would hold for a year only. It appears to me therefore that where the licensee declares himself unable to obtain an unobjectionable site, Government must be prepared to take up land for the purpose, and in future to let it with the outstill license. It would involve expenditure for the first year, but this expenditure would eventually be recovered in the increased value of the license. The cost of raising the site and the approach to it might be deducted from the first year's license fee, and the work would be done by the licensee, who would in excavating the necessary earth dig a tank to supply the outstill with the water required in his distilling operations. Besides meeting the objections which I have mentioned, the possession of the sites by Government would tend to stimulate competition for licenses, in which the possessor of a site at present has an advantage which goes far towards giving him a monopoly, and would also obviate the delay in opening an outstill, which now frequently results from the difficulty which a new licensee who has out-

bid the former one meets with in obtaining a site. I have considered the suggestion made by the Indian Association that the selection of sites should be left to Local Boards, but am of opinion that for the present it should be left in the hands of District Officers.

15. Table I.—Comparison of quantity, strength, and retail prices of liquor sold in 1886-87 and 1887-88.—In column 1 are shown the positions of the outstills which have been open since April, 1887. The number is 31, three of the 33 originally contemplated having failed to let, and Majoo in the Howrah Sudder sub-division having been added to the list on the application of a man who wanted the license. In column 2 I have entered the average monthly sales of liquor at each outstill, taken by me from the outstill accounts. How far these sales correspond with the local demand as estimated beforehand by the excise authorities is shown in a subsequent table. The Deputy Collector is of opinion that the outstill accounts show local sales correctly, but suspects that no account is shown of liquor smuggled into the distillery area from Pondooa, Nalikool, Singoor, Jhaporda, Sarenga, and perhaps other outstills. I find no proof for or against the accuracy of the accounts, but they are the best I can get. In columns 3*a* and 3*b* I have given the highest and lowest strengths of liquor which I found at each outstill, and which I carefully tested myself. The liquor of each distillation, however, varies in strength, and the samples I tested indicate but roughly the average strength. In the appendix will be found detailed evidence as to the price at which the vendors profess to sell liquor of each quality. In column 3 (*c*) I have endeavoured to show the average strength of all the liquor sold, but even where the vendors gave me a rough estimate of the proportions of their sales of each quality of liquor, which I omitted to ask for in every place, especially in the earlier part of my inquiry, the calculation is made upon most imperfect data. In columns 4 and 5 I have entered the maximum and minimum retail price at which I heard that liquor was sold at each outstill, but I have not tried to show what the average retail prices are. Perhaps I may say roughly that liquor less than 20 below proof sells at ten annas, from that to 30 at eight annas, from that to 40 at six, and below 40 at four. In column 6 I have endeavoured to show the liquor shops which in 1886-87 were supplying the area now supplied by each outstill shown in column 1, but the Deputy Collector upon whom I depended for the information appears to be ignorant of the position of the former shops, as he has sent me three conflicting statements. The mistakes of one show gross carelessness rather than ignorance, as shops which the Deputy Collector knows to have been close to the town of Howrah are shown opposite the outstill of Majoo in the extreme west of the district. I have endeavoured from my own knowledge to make this column as accurate as I could, but there may still be errors. In column 7 I have shown the average quantity of liquor which each shop took monthly from central distilleries in 1886-87. These figures are supplied by the Deputy Collector, and may or may not be accurate. In column 8 I have given the average strength of this liquor calculated by me from the statements given by the Deputy Collector of the duty paid upon it. Columns 9 and 10 show the retail prices of liquor in 1886-87, and as I obtained them from actual consumers, I think they are fairly accurate.

TABLE I.

Comparison between average monthly sales of outstills in 1887-88 *and average monthly quantity of liquor taken out of distilleries by licensed liquor shops in* 1886-87. *Shown in bottles, six to the gallon.*

Hooghly Sudder Sub-division.

1	2	3			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Position of outstill in 1887-88.	Average monthly sales of liquor shown in bottles, extracted from outstill accounts.	Strength of liquor shown in column 2, ascertained by testing samples in stock. a. Highest strength found.	b. Lowest strength found.	c. Average strength calculated according to alleged sales of liquor of different strengths.	Lowest price at which consumers say outstill liquor can be obtained.	Highest price at which consumers say outstill liquor can be obtained.	Shops said by Excise Deputy Collector to have supplied the same area with liquor in 1886-87.	Average monthly quantity of liquor taken by each shop from distillery in 1886-87, shown in bottles, extracted from distillery accounts.	Average strength of liquor shown in column 7, calculated from payment of duty shown in distillery accounts.	Lowest price at which consumers say they could get a bottle of liquor in 1886-87.	Highest price at which consumers say they could get a bottle of liquor in 1886-87.	Remarks.
					As.	As.				As.	As.	
Gooptipara ...	603	21·6	44·3	35·1	4	8	Gooptipara	63	36·4	12	16	Outstill liquor from Burdwan and Nuddea smuggled into this area.
Sreepoor ...	883	17·1	39·7	33·2	4	9	Bankipoor	70	32·5	14	18	
							Norsarai	21	34·8			
							Total ...	91				
Boinchee ...	1,073	30·0	38·2	35·4	5	8	Goorapheolpokhor ...	47	32·65	12	14	Outstill liquor from Burdwan.
							Butika	9	33·70			
							Total ...	56				
Pondooa ...	1,619	8·8	37·2	30·16	5	10	Pondooa	76	29·84	16	20	Accuracy of column 6 doubtful, the Deputy Collector sending me conflicting statements. Some outstill liquor from Burdwan. Mollai open 10½ months only.
							Meriya	61	33·20			
							Khanyan	50	36·48			
							Kapastikree ...	76	28·51			
							Mollai	14	35·29			
							Chondrohatee ...	36	30·93			
							Total ...	313				
Bhastora ...	561	32·2	44·7	40·28	5	8	Bhastora	23	30·7	12	16	Outstill liquor from Burdwan. Horal open eight months only.
							Horal	4	38·0			
							Gopalnogor	29	35·79			
							Total ...	56				
Dasghora ...	758	16·5	46·8	43·0	4	8	Sreekrishtopoor ...	5	32·19	12	16	Sreekrishtopoor open seven months only. Much outstill liquor from Burdwan and Jehanabad.
							Obhirampoor ...	7	40·19			
							Total ...	12				
Dhanyakhalee ...	1,069	22·5	44·6	42·6	4	5	Harpoor	44	35·79	11	14	Jijar open one month only.
							Bhanderhatee ...	30	35·0			
							Jijar	2	40·62			
							Total ...	76				
Dwarbasinee ...	837	12·4	38·7	34·0	4	12	Dwarbasinee ...	37	40·0	16	20	Not so near the border, and less smuggling.
							Mohanad	97	22·16			
							Total ...	134				
Makalpoor ...	546	15·8	40·1	32·64	5	8	Dophorbagan ...	20	27·13	14	16	Also some distance from the border.
							Bagnan	20	33·47			
							Dardpoor	26	36·69			
							Total ...	66				
Sainya ...	612	37·6	43·5	40·0	6	7	Sainya	69	33·47	14	16	The Deputy Collector's statement of shops in column 6 appears untrustworthy. This is some distance from the border.
							Samhat	32	37·04			
							Malipara	25	35·18			
							Serampoor	32	33·96			
							Suzundhuja	61	32·43			
							Rajhat	74	33·12			
							Total ...	293				
Total ...	8,560	.....	.....	.....	...	...	Total ...	1,160	.....	...	...	

Hooghly—Serampore Sub-division.

Tarkeshwar ...	160	17·2	44·8	43·0	4	10	Shahapoor	66	34·93	16	16	Bajitpoor was open for two months only. Pilgrims to Tarkeshwar seem to drink principally imported liquor, and the local residents outstill liquor from Jahanabad.
							Joynogor	18	33·95			
							Bajitpoor	10	34·38			
							Total ...	94				
Janda	488	11·8	49·8	47·6	4	8	Rajbulhat	14	48·36	16	20	Rajbulhat shop was open for four months only. Much outstill liquor from Jahanabad.
							Anwarbatee ...	41	41·94			
							Total ...	55				
Dipa	701	33·0	34·4	34·3	6	10	Kumarpoor	25	40·28	14	16	Column 6 probably not accurate. The Deputy Collector very dubious about it.
							Dwarhatiya	30	41·59			
							Total ...	55				
Haripal	1,221	13·9	58·9	36·1	4	10	Chandinogor ...	103	38·89	16	16	Koikala shop was open for nine months only. Weak mahawa liquor sold at 4 annas.
							Koikala	20	41·94			
							Haripal	135	38·57			
							Basoodebpoor ...	31	37·51			
							Total ...	289				
Krishtonogor ...	976	16·0	40·5	35·6	4	10	Krishtonogor ...	57	29·68	16	20	Boral open 11 months only.
							Boral	17	36·18			
							Total ...	74				
Sheokhala	747	21·7	54·8	26·0	4	10	Sheokhala	77	26·97	16	20	
							Jongolpara	23	47·50			
							Gopalpoor	27	38·52			
							Mondolika	43	33·75			
							Total ...	170				
Nal kool	419	19·8	33·5	30·0	8	10	Nalikool	63	25·79	Not ascertained.		
							Dilalpoor	35	32·49			
							Total ...	98				

HOOGHLY—SERAMPORE SUB-DIVISION—*concluded.*

1	2	3			4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
POSITION OF OUTSTILL IN 1887-88.	Average monthly sales of liquor shown in bottles, extracted from outstill accounts.	STRENGTH OF LIQUOR SHOWN IN COLUMN 2, ASCERTAINED BY TESTING SAMPLES IN STOCK. a. Highest strength found.	b. Lowest strength found.	c. Average strength calculated according to alleged sales of liquor of different strengths.	Lowest price at which consumers say outstill liquor can be obtained.	Highest price at which consumers say outstill liquor can be obtained.	Shops said by Excise Deputy Collector to have supplied the same area with liquor in 1886-87.	Average monthly quantity of liquor taken by each shop from distillery in 1886-87, shown in bottles, extracted from distillery accounts.	Average strength of liquor shown in column 7, calculated from payment of duty shown in distillery accounts.	Lowest price at which consumers say they could get a bottle of liquor in 1886-87.	Highest price at which consumers say they could get a bottle of liquor in 1886-87.	REMARKS.
					As.	As.				As.	As.	
Singoor	1,025	12·0	31·3	27·4	8	10	Singoor	174	23·36	16	20	Chatagunj open 5 months only. Accuracy of column 6 very doubtful. Smuggling into this and Chonditala areas would be less easy than into any other.
							Nosibpoor	27	27·75			
							Moradun	141	24·85			
							Gobindopoor ...	16	27·15			
							Chatagunj	56	23·89			
							Balordanpoor ...	26	22·17			
							Sankerpoor	154	22·0			
							Mankundu	64	15·48			
							Ganjarkhal	130	22·53			
							Khalsini	40	29·29			
							Kadamtala	290	14·68			
							Total ...	1,118				
Chonditala	1,825	17·6	25·5	23·7	5	10	Jonai	84	18·33	16	20	Jonai shop was open six months only Milkee eleven, Bansai nine.
							Khorsarai	130	16·88			
							Kalipoor	62	17·44			
							Milkee	31	18·51			
							Bora	63	29·93			
							Adhanya	41	20·69			
							Bansai	63	21·96			
							Total ...	474				
TOTAL ...	7,562	.....	.....	.....	...	...	TOTAL ...	2,427	.....	...	...	

HOWRAH—SUDDER SUB-DIVISION.

Jogotbollobhpoor...	706	15·0	27·9	23·0	5	10	Ichanogor	23	36·07	16	20	Ichanogor open 3 months only.
							Sekrahatee	62	38·66			
							Jogotbollobhpoor ...	80	38·53			
							Total ...	165				
Joynogor ...	717	17·6	25·1	22·0	5	8	Rameshwarpoor ...	3	40·87	12	20	Joynogor open 4½ months only.
							Joynogor	18	30·19			
							Kooldingee	30	36·6			
							Total ...	51				
Andool ...	1,450	19·4	35·0	30·0	4	10	Podra	4	33·33	16	20	Podra open 3 months only.
							Mohiyaree	207	31·58			
							Andool	134	29·06			
							Kutla	67	35·12			
							Total ...	412				
Sarenga ...	1,035	15·3	18·9	17·0	6	10	Sankrail	56	23·21	16	16	
							Rajganj	78	28·65			
							Sarenga	11	29·28			
							Total ...	145				
Jhaporda ...	1,427	17·6	26·4	22·0	6	10	Begree	97	34·79	16	20	
							Neloca	2	36·61			
							Beltikree	28	35·88			
							Belsachee	18	36·38			
							Koolermat	14	37·06			Koolermat open 6 months only.
							Total ...	159				
Majoo	388	14·9	23·1	20·0	5	8	Majoo	40	35·80	16	16	
							Basantopoor	31	39·3			
							Total ...	71				
	5,723						GRAND TOTAL ...	1,003				

All the outstills in this sub-division, except Andool, probably keep for local consumption much weaker liquor than any I found in stock, as the liquor shown in column 36 could not be sold for the price shown in column 4. From Andool, Sarenga, and Jhaporda, much liquor is smuggled into town.

HOWRAH—OOLOOBERIYA SUB-DIVISION.

Amta	940	17·1	56·3	36·8	4	10	Amta	165	31·05	16	20	Fatihpoor open 6½ months only.
							Fatihpoor	18	30·11			
							Moinan	26	33·38			
							Total ...	209				
Bagnan	508	14·5	28·4	24·9	4	10	Bagnan	106	33·31	16	20	
Kantopokhor ...	188	35·3	44·8	37·0	5	8	Noontiya	6	34·32	Scarcely any sold.		Liquor smuggled freely from Midnapore Noontiya open 3 months only.
Kharooberiya ...	334	21·6	34·9	30·0	8	8	Kharooberiya ...	11	36·40	16	20	Bowreah hât open 11 months only.
							Bowreah hât ...	20	36·3			
							Total ...	31				
Oolooberiya ...	1,096	18·6	26·3	23·0	6	10	Oolooberiya	156	30·91	16	20	Much smuggling from 24-Pergunnahs Oolooberiya shop open 9½ months, and Chandipoor 8 months only.
							Chundipoor	23	31·25			
							Total ...	179				
Bowreah	993	19·7	31·7	19·0	6	8	Bowreah	10	32·13	16	20	
TOTAL ...	4,059						TOTAL ...	541				

The average monthly sales of liquor in 1887-88 may be compared as follows with the monthly quantity of liquor shown in the distillery accounts as taken out for consumption:—

Sub-division.	Population.	Average number of bottles sold monthly.	
		1886-87.	1887-88.
Hooghly Sudder	254,041	1,160	8,560
Do. Serampore	283,611	2,427	7,562
Howrah Sudder	206,016	1,003	5,723
Do. Oolooberiya	323,737	541	4,059
Total ...	1,067,405	5,131	25,904

The difference between the average monthly amount of liquor taken out of distilleries in 1886-87 and that sold by outstills in 1887-88 is enormous, being in the proportion of 100 to 504 in the whole area, 100 to 738 in the Hooghly Sudder, 100 to 311 in Serampore, 100 to 570 in Howrah Sudder, and 100 to 750 in Oolooberiya. After making allowance for the fact that the money which used to buy one bottle of liquor can now buy two, I cannot admit that this great difference is due to increased consumption. Some of it may be due to the dishonesty of distillery darogahs in passing out liquor without crediting Government with the duty upon it, but by far the greater part I attribute to the smuggling of outstill liquor from other districts in 1886-87. The difference is smallest in the Serampore sub-division, where the extent of frontier is smallest, and greatest in Hooghly Sudder and Oolooberiya, which were exposed for two-thirds the extent of their borders to competition with outstills. I think these figures illustrate the mistake that was made in so adjusting the duty as to make the cost of liquor on one side of a line at least double what it was on the other, especially with a weak and inefficient detective establishment. Smuggling was inevitable, and I think my figures indicate in some measure the extent to which it was practised. I feel confident that if the duty on outstill liquor were raised to four rupees for twenty miles round the urban area, the consumption of distillery liquor would be at least doubled, or people would have recourse to illicit distillation, of which the extreme cheapness of outstill liquor has hitherto precluded the necessity. Before leaving these figures I must point out that the average monthly consumption of liquor compared with the population is as follows:—

In Hooghly	Sudder sub-division	1 bottle	to 29	persons
„ „	Serampore	1 „	to 37	„
„ Howrah	Sudder	1 „	to 36	„
„ „	Oolooberiya	1 „	to 79	„

The sub-division of Oolooberiya is still to a great extent supplied with liquor smuggled from Midnapore, as no one has, in 1887-88, been found willing to open outstills in competition with it; but even as regards the other sub-divisions, the amount of liquor consumed by the population is far from justifying the denunciations of the correspondents of the Indian Association. The Indian Association admits that we have not yet to deal with "a starving population frantic with drink," and its anticipation that such a phenomenon is probable in the near future is not borne out by the results of my inquiry. In the Hooghly Sudder sub-division I find very little difference in the average strength of liquor, that sold in 1886-87 averaging 34° and that in 1887-88 36° below proof. In Serampore also the difference is generally insignificant. In Howrah Sudder sub-division the outstill liquor is considerably stronger than the distillery liquor of 1886-87, and I suspect that whereas the latter was taken out solely for local consumption, the outstills, especially those at Jhaporda, Andool, and Sarenga, are distilling strong liquor to be smuggled into Howrah and Calcutta.

16. **On the fixing of upset prices for the licenses of outstills, and on the estimates of local demand made for the purpose of the settlements of 1887-88.**—The upset prices were fixed by calculating the duty at the rate of two rupees on the gallon (London-proof) on the estimated local demand of the locality. In the following table I have compared the demand estimated with the actual sales shown in the outstill accounts. The average strength of the liquor sold, shown in column 4, is only approximate,

as the samples tested by me cannot be expected to indicate exactly the strength of a number of distillations, and the information I have been able to obtain as to the proportion borne by the sales at each strength to the total sales at each outstill cannot be anything but loose. Considering the immense margin which the Deputy Collector had to allow for the consumption in previous years of smuggled liquor, and the fact that the quantity of liquor taken from the distillery was, as shown in my Table I, a very small part of the amount really consumed, I think his estimate was as good a one as could be expected.

TABLE II.

HOOGHLY—SUDDER SUB-DIVISION.

1	2	3	4	5
Situation of outstill.	Estimated local monthly demand in bottles six to the gallon London-proof.	Actual average monthly sales as shown in outstill accounts in bottles.	Average strength below proof of liquor shown in preceding column.	Actual sales shown in column 3 reduced to London-proof strength, in bottles.
Gooptipara	675	603	35·1	391
Sreepoor	450	883	35·42	589
Boinchee	450	1,073	35·4	693
Pondooa	900	1,619	30·16	1,130
Bhastora	450	561	40·28	336
Dasghora	450	758	43·0	432
Dhanyakhalee	900	1,068	42·6	613
Dwarbasinee	450	837	34·0	552
Makalpoor	450	546	32·64	367
Sainya	450	612	40·0	367
Total ...	5,625	.....	.....	5,469

HOOGHLY—SERAMPORE SUB-DIVISION.

Tarkeshwar	1,350	960	43·0	546
Janda	450	488	47·6	255
Dipa	450	701	34·3	460
Haripal	1,350	1,221	43·0	695
Krishtonogor	450	976	35·6	628
Sheokhala	900	747	26·0	552
Nalikool	450	419	30·0	293
Singoor	450*	1,025	27·4	744
Chonditala	900	1,825	23·7	1,392
Total ...	6,750	.....	.....	5,565

* Afterwards raised.

HOWRAH—SUDDER SUB-DIVISION.

Jogotbollobhpoor	600	706	23·0	543
Joynogor	480	717	22·0	559
Andool	1,200	1,450	30·0	1,015
Sarenga	480	1,035	17·0	859
Jhaporda	720*	1,427	22·0	1,113
Majoo	Not estimated	388	20·0	310
Total ...	3,480	.....	.....	4,399

* Afterwards raised.

HOWRAH—OOLOOBERIYA SUB-DIVISION.

Amta	600	940	36·8	594
Bagnan	480	508	24·9	381
Kantapokhor	240	188	37·0	118
Kharooberiya	480	334	30·0	233
Oolooberiya	960	1,096	23·0	843
Bowreah	600	993	19·0	803
Total ...	3,360	.....	.....	2,972

The rate of duty was fixed at two rupees, as being half the rate levied under the sudder distillery system, according to the Board's letter No. 1037 of 30th December 1886, and I think it important to examine the reasons which led the Board to fix the duty so low, as it is this which has so greatly cheapened the retail price of liquor. On the ground that since the distillery system was generally abolished liquor had been cheapened and consumption increased, that the same quality of liquor which was sold at a certain price in distillery shops was being sold in outstills for half that price or less, and that the rate of fee, tax, or duty, had proportionately fallen, the Board considered that to calculate the upset price at a higher rate of duty than half the distillery rate would in the outset lead to difficulties in making settlements of outstills, and thereby cause loss to the revenue, but allowed that the rate might be gradually increased hereafter as found necessary. Admitting the fact that the introduction of the outstill system had cheapened liquor and increased consumption, I submit that these results were much to be regretted, and indicated that the system had been introduced without proper precaution, but I venture to doubt whether the fact that such a mistake had been made at a distance from the important urban area on the banks of the river Hooghly was a good reason for repeating it in introducing the system in the tracts immediately adjoining that area. I submit that the duty should be as high as is compatible with the purchasing power of the consumers, but not so high as to make it worth their while to run the risks of smuggling or illicit distillation, and the fact that licensed shops in the towns on both banks of the river Hooghly were, in spite of smuggling, selling a large quantity of liquor at a duty of four and five rupees the gallon (London-proof) appears to me a very good reason for keeping the duty on outstill liquor in the immediately adjoining tracts nearly if not quite as high. Where the duty had already been reduced to two rupees, there was some reason for not fixing that in the adjoining outstills at four, but there was no such reason in the outstills nearest to the towns. I am aware that much reliance was placed on the efficacy of a neutral zone of six miles between the liquor paying four or five rupees and that paying only two, and on the detective and preventive agency, to hinder outstill liquor from being brought into the towns. I shall return to this branch of the subject presently, and will only say now that in spite of the neutral zone I believe the smuggling to be on a very large scale. Having completed my local enquiries, I am satisfied that the people could very well have continued to pay the retail prices at which distillery liquor was sold previous to April 1887 without the least fear of driving them to illicit distillation. It is true that they did supplement their purchases from the shops by going across the border for outstill liquor, but it was only that limited fraction of the population which lived near the border which was able to do so, and I believe that most of the outstill liquor which was smuggled into the district was smuggled not by the consumers but by the licensed shopkeepers, and was sold by them at distillery prices. All the evidence tends to show that the amount of liquor which the drinkers obtained directly from the outstills was very limited, and from all I can hear of purchases made at the licensed shops, I am satisfied that the amount of liquor they sold was enormously in excess of what they obtained from the central distilleries. I am quite satisfied that in the outstills nearest the town a duty of four rupees would not have induced more smuggling in 1887-88 than there was in 1886-87, while it would have prevented smuggling into the town; but I fully recognise the fact that where an outstill in Burdwan is paying a duty of two rupees only, it would be absurd to make an outstill in Hooghly, only two or three miles off, pay a duty of four rupees. I think, therefore, that the duty should be graduated from the point where the outstill system is in contact with that of central distilleries to that at which it comes into contact with the cheaper liquor, but that careful enquiry should be made as to the possibility of raising the duty on that cheaper liquor. On the 22nd March I went to Burdwan to consult with Mr. Oldham, the Collector, on the excise on country spirits in his district, so far as it affects the trade in Hooghly. The strength of the liquor sold at the Burdwan outstills near the Hooghly border is reported to be 67° below proof, and the average duty paid in license fees in 1887-88 on each gallon of London-proof spirit, at eight outstills, to range from Rs. 2·05 to Rs. 2·9. I had understood generally from previous communications with Mr. Oldham that the

low prices of his outstill liquor were caused by the cheapness of spirits in the *mahawa* country, in which very weak liquor is sold at three, and in one instance two, pice per bottle. I find, however, that the Burdwan distillery area, within which liquor pays a duty of Rs. 4 on the gallon (London-proof) is within ten or a dozen miles of the border of the sudder sub-division of Hooghly, and that the tract intermediate between the distillery areas of Burdwan and Hooghly does not come in contact with the *mahawa* country at all. With reference to the latter, I have no information as to the actual strength of *mahawa* liquor, but Mr. Oldham thinks that it is not stronger than 80° below proof. Assuming this strength as a basis for calculation, I find that 573 gallons, which the Excise Deputy Collector reports to be the average monthly sales of a specimen outstill, are equal to 114·6 gallons only London-proof. The outstill in question pays a monthly license-fee of Rs. 201, which amounts to a duty of Re. 1·76 or Rs. 1-12-2 on the gallon of London-proof spirit. The duty on 573 gallons, or, taking six bottles to the gallon, 3,438 bottles, amounts (if my calculation is correct) to ·93 anna per bottle. It is quite impossible for liquor on which ·93 anna is paid as duty to be sold for two or three pice (·5 or ·75 anna), and I can only conclude that the average monthly sales are very much greater than the Deputy Collector believes. On the south-west of the tract lying between the distillery areas of Hooghly and Burdwan lies the sub-division of Jahanabad, and on the north-east the district of Nuddea. Mr. Toynbee, the Collector of Hooghly, considers that Jahanabad is a poorer country than the rest of his district; and that whereas liquor in the Serampore sub-division might pay Rs. 3-8 duty per gallon London-proof and in the Sudder sub-division Rs. 3, in Jahanabad it should not pay more than Rs. 2-8. In order to calculate the actual duty which the Jahanabad outstills have been paying, I should require to know the average monthly sales, the monthly fee, and the average strength of liquor, in some of the outstills, but these data I have not before me. I find that the average strength of the liquor taken out of the distillery in 1886-87 by the shops near the Jahanabad border was from 35° to 48° below proof, and by actual testing I have found that the outstills in the same position have during 1887-88 been selling, for four and five annas the bottle, liquor from 45° to 50° below proof. Assuming that this represents the strength of the cheap liquor which meets the requirements of the neighbourhood, I suppose the strength of the ordinary Jahanabad liquor, in the eastern part of the sub-division, to be about 50° below proof, and enquiries which I have made lead me to the conclusion that the usual price is four annas the bottle. The cost of production of a gallon of London-proof spirit, whether at an outstill or in a distillery, does not exceed twelve or fourteen annas, and in Jahanabad is probably less. The most extravagant estimates with which distillers have endeavoured to deceive me do not exceed Re. 1-4. Liquor 40° below proof gives 10 bottles to the gallon London-proof, and at 12, 13 and 14 annas per gallon cost of production, each bottle costs 1·2, 1·3, 1·4 annas. At 50° below proof 12 bottles to the gallon will cost per bottle 1·0, 1·08, and 1·16 annas, and at 60° below proof, 15 bottles to the gallon will cost ·8, ·86, and ·93 annas. At 40° below proof a duty of Re. 1 per gallon London-proof will come to 1·6 anna, a duty of Rs. 2 to 3·2 annas, a duty of Rs. 3 to 4·8 annas, and at 50° below proof a duty of Re. 1 to 1·33 anna, of Rs. 2 to 2·66 annas, and of Rs. 3 to 3·99 annas per bottle. Taking cost of production at twelve annas the gallon (London-proof), liquor of a strength of 50° below proof with a duty of Rs. 2 per gallon (London-proof) will cost the vendor 3·66 annas the bottle, and with a duty of Rs. 3 will cost 4·99 annas. With a duty of Rs. 2-8, which Mr. Toynbee thinks sufficient, each bottle would cost slightly over four annas, and at Rs. 3 almost exactly five annas. I have ample evidence to show that in 1886-87 people were paying not less than twelve annas for a bottle of distillery liquor just outside the Jahanabad sub-division, and I judge that the average strength of that liquor was from 40° to 50° below proof. I admit that many consumers must have been drinking smuggled liquor from the Jahanabad outstills, but still a certain amount of weak liquor was drunk at twelve annas the bottle, and therefore I do not think six annas per bottle an excessive retail price, or one which should drive the people to illicit distillation. It would allow the vendor to pay a duty of Rs. 3 per gallon of London-proof spirit, and after paying all his expenses give him a clear profit of one anna per

bottle. Suppose his average monthly sales to be only 50 gallons London-proof, he would sell 600 bottles 50° below proof, and make a net profit of Rs. 37-8 annas. From Nuddea I have received very meagre information, and not knowing the strength, I am quite unable to say what duty the outstill liquor has been practically paying. The price of Nuddea liquor was said at Gooptipara to have been from eight to ten annas the bottle, while at Sreepoor I was told four annas. I believe the people in that part of Nuddea are quite sufficiently prosperous to pay ten annas a bottle for liquor 30° below proof, and for liquor of that strength, I find the cost of production at fourteen annas the gallon, London-proof, to be 1·64 annas, and duty at Rs. 3 the gallon, London-proof, to be 5·64 annas per bottle. The cost to the vendor therefore would be 7·28 annas the bottle, and his net profits at a retail price of ten annas would be more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas per bottle. Upon these considerations I think Mr. Toynbee's estimate of Rs. 3 as the proper duty for the sudder sub-division of Hooghly a low one, and think it might pay nearly, if not quite, as high a duty as the urban area, viz. Rs. 4, without the slightest fear of driving the people into illicit distillation. There are, however, as both Mr. Oldham and Mr. Toynbee have urged, and as I fully admit, objections to raising the duty very suddenly, because the *abkars* would resent the sudden appropriation by Government of a large share in the profits which they have hitherto been making, and would endeavour to do what they have successfully done before, namely, try to frighten the authorities into making concessions by holding aloof altogether from settlement. I should not look on this as a very great evil, feeling sure that they must give way in time, except that the failure of the local supply of liquor might possibly drive the people temporarily to illicit distillation, which it would take some time to stamp out afterwards. The profits of the *abkars* are to a great extent illicit, and made by smuggling their outstill liquor into the distillery areas, and therefore I feel little respect for their vested interests, but a year's finances might be seriously unsettled by the attitude which a great and sudden attack on their profits might lead them to assume, and therefore I would propose to raise the duty gradually with a view to making it equal eventually to that paid in the distillery areas, except in tracts where the poverty of people, and the strength of their demand for liquor, are such as to make it necessary to keep the duty low for fear of driving the people to illicit distillation. When I speak of raising the duty on outstill liquor, I must be understood to refer only to the considerations upon which to fix the upset prices at which the monthly licenses for outstills should be up put for sale. This should be done by estimating as nearly as possible the monthly average sales and the average strength of the liquor sold, and then calculating the upset price at the given rate of duty per gallon of London-proof spirit. The enormous amount of smuggling of outstill liquor into distillery areas is not likely to be checked—at least with the present establishments—until the cost of producing outstill liquor, including the duty, is made equal to the cost of producing distillery liquor, and if the equalisation is gradual, the cessation of smuggling and the loss of the illicit profit derived from it by the *abkars* will be gradual also. It must be remembered that even when the duty on outstill liquor has been roughly equalised with that on liquor from the distilleries, the outstill will continue to hold the advantage of being able to deceive the authorities as to the actual amount of its sales to a much greater extent than is possible for a man working in a distillery, even if the latter secures the connivance of a dishonest *darogah*. South of the sudder subdivision of Hooghly is the sub-division of Serampore, bounded on the north by the Sudder sub-division, on the east by the urban area, on the west by Jahanabad, and on the south by Howrah. Mr. Toynbee thinks that this tract might pay a higher duty than the Sudder sub-division, and I am of opinion that it could very well pay a duty equal to that of the urban area on the east, graduated towards the westward to one slightly higher than the highest which may be fixed for Jahanabad. For Howrah I may take the two subdivisions together. The northern part, in contact with the Serampore subdivision and the urban area, is very wealthy, and can afford to pay as much for its liquor as the urban area, with the same graduation towards Jahanabad on the north-west, which I have mentioned as necessary for Hooghly. Southward the district of Howrah terminates in a point, having the 24-Pergunnahs on the south east, and

Midnapore on the south-west. Mr. Forbes, the Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs, has given me all possible assistance in my inquiries, and accompanied me on the 4th March in a visit to three of his outstills on the bank of the river Hooghly. We found that liquor 16·4° below proof was being sold for twelve annas the bottle, that averaging 18° below proof at ten, and that averaging 30° at eight annas, while diluted liquor was being sold for six annas at 46° below proof. These figures appear to indicate wealthy customers, and stuff worse than what is sold in Jahanabad for four annas is here sold for six. Taking Budge-Budge outstill as a specimen, I find that until March 1887 it was paying a monthly fee of Rs. 500, and selling monthly on an average 1,590 bottles. Since April 1887, the same man having opened an outstill at Bowreah, across the river, a place previously supplied from Budge-Budge, pays only Rs. 350 for Budge-Budge, and shows average monthly sales there of 1,441 bottles only. Taking the average strength of liquor to be 30° below proof the duty paid was before 1st April 1887 Rs. 2-12-7, and after that date Rs. 2-1-3 per gallon London-proof. In granting the license at Rs. 350 in 1887-88, Government has reduced the cost of the liquor, sacrificed revenue, and increased the distiller's profits. Cost of production at fourteen annas per gallon London-proof being about 1·64 annas per bottle 30° below proof, and assuming duty at Rs. 2-8, being 4·7 annas per bottle, the difference between eight annas and 6·34 annas, viz., 1·66 annas per bottle, would represent the vendors' profits. On 1,440 bottles in the month it would amount to Rs. 149. To this must be added all that the distiller has made by smuggling liquor into the distillery area, and selling it there at from Re. 1 to Rs. 1-4 the bottle, and possibly more sales than he has entered in his books. Mr. Forbes thinks that further south the people of the 24-Pergunnahs are less wealthy than they are in the part with which I have to deal as adjoining Howrah, but I am of opinion that as far south of the mouth of the Damooda the people are rich enough on both sides of the river to pay eventually at least Rs. 4 duty on their liquor. For the extreme south and south-west of the district of Howrah it is necessary to consider the possibility of raising the duty in Midnapore, respecting which I have not sufficient information, but I gather that the whole of the part adjoining Howrah is able to pay at least as high a duty as Jahanabad. The following table shows the duty per gallon (London-proof) which each outstill actually pays in its monthly license-fee for the average monthly sales shown in its accounts; and if similar tables were drawn up for each of the adjoining districts, we should see at what rate duty is now being paid, and should so be able to make estimates for future settlements.

TABLE III.

HOOGHLY—SUDDER SUB-DIVISION.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Situation of outstill.	Average number of bottles to the gallon sold monthly.	Average strength below proof.	Equivalent number of bottles London-proof spirit.	Monthly license fee.	Amount of duty per gallon London-proof.
				Rs.	Rs.
Gooptipara	603	35·10	391	150	2 21
Sreepore	883	33·42	587	100	1·02
Boinchee	1,073	35·40	693	176	1·52
Pondooa	1,619	30·16	1,130	307	1·63
Bhastora	561	40·28	335	107	1·92
Dasghora	758	43·00	432	150	2·08
Dhanyakhalee ...	1,068	42·60	613	204	1·99
Dwarbasinee	837	34·00	552	150	1·63
Makalpoor	546	32·64	367	130	2·11
Sainya	612	40·00	367	150	2·45
HOOGHLY—SERAMPORE SUB-DIVISION.					
Tarkeshwar	960	43·0	516	304	3·34
Janda	488	47·6	255	101	2·37
Dipa	701	34·3	460	150	1 95
Haripal	1,221	43·	695	365	3·15
Krishtonogor ...	976	35 6	628	220	2·10
Sheokhala	747	26·	552	300	3·26
Nalikool	419	30·	293	150	3·07
Singoor	1,025	27·4	744	310	2·5
Chonditala	1,825	23·7	1,392	400	1 72

HOWRAH—SUDDER SUB-DIVISION.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Station of outstill.	Average number of bottles to the gallon sold monthly.	Average strength below proof.	Equivalent number of bottles London-proof spirit.	Monthly license fee.	Amount of duty per gallon London-proof.
Jogotbollobhpoor ...	706	23·0	543	200	2 2
Joynogor	717	22·0	559	160	1·71.
Andool	1,450	30·0	1,015	400	2·36
Sarenga	1,035	17·0	859	160	1·11
Jhaporda	1,427	22·0	1,113	425	2·21
Majoo	388	20·0	310	100	1·93

HOWRAH—OOLOOBERIYA SUB-DIVISION.

Amta	940	36·8	594	200	2·02
Bagnan	508	24·9	381	160	2·51
Kantapokhor... ...	188	37	118	82	4·17
Kharooberiya... ...	334	30	233	80	20·6
Oolooberiya	1,096	23	843	320	2·39
Bowreah	993	19	803	180	1·34

Another method of calculating the minimum upset price at which an outstill should be put up to auction is suggested in paragraph 5 of Board's No. 666 of 2nd June 1886. It assumes that the average monthly yield of a still is known, and that a minimum retail price has been fixed or ascertained, and deducting about one rupee per gallon for cost of manufacture, would divide the balance equally between Government and the *abkar*, leaving the *abkar* half of it for his profits and contingencies. This is treating the *abkar* with much greater liberality than is shown to licensed shop-keepers taking distillery liquor, as may be seen in the notes of my visit to the Russa distillery on page 118 of the Appendix. The shop-keeper pays the distiller thirteen annas per gallon, and also pays Government Rs. 5 duty, and one anna distillery fee per gallon (London-proof). If he sells retail at 20° below proof, for Re. 1-4 per bottle, his gross receipts are $7\frac{1}{2} \times$ Re. 1-4 = Rs. 9-6, and if he sells at 30° below proof at Re. 1 per bottle, his gross receipts are $8\frac{1}{2} \times$ Re. 1 = Rs. 8-8. Deducting price paid to the distiller, 13 annas, and distillery fee, one anna, as cost of production, from the gross receipts, there remains a balance certainly not exceeding Rs. 8-8, out of which Government deducts not only Rs. 5 duty, but also the license fee of the shop, leaving the shop-keeper very much less than half, out of which he has to pay shop rent and selling expenses. I submit that there is no reason for treating an outstill *abkar* so much more liberally as to limit the Government share to half the difference between gross receipts and cost of production. There is so much combination, and so little competition, among the *abkars*, that the proper calculation of upset prices, and rigid adherence to them, are of the greatest importance.

17. On the possibility of prescribing a minimum retail price of liquor, irrespective of actual strength.—At a very early stage of my inquiry, I recognised that most of the evils which may fairly be attributed to the outstill system were due to the great reduction in the retail price of liquor, and that this reduction was not accompanied by any decrease in the alcoholic strength. My attention was therefore drawn to the possibility of prescribing a minimum retail price. I had not then examined the reasons which had led to a reduction in the rate of duty, and believed that they must be more valid than on further inquiry and consideration I am inclined to think them, and I therefore attached the more importance to a minimum price. This subject has been fully discussed in paragraph 20 of Board's letter No. 1037 of 30th December 1886, as well as in paragraphs 40-42 of their report of 2nd November 1885, and the Board appeared disinclined to recommend any such measure. It had been supported by a majority of the Excise Commission, Mr. Reily dissenting. I admit that most of the Government officers and others whom I have consulted think that where seller and buyer are both interested in keeping the price low, any Government order prescribing a minimum would be habitually disobeyed. It has, however, been determined to try the experiment, and in its letter No. 237 of

15th February 1888, the Board has issued instructions to district officers. In his No. 583 of 23rd February 1888, Mr. Toynbee replied, proposing to divide Hooghly (independent of Howrah) into four parts, fixing the minimum prices at ten, six, four, and three annas respectively, and this the Board has sanctioned. The price of three annas is proposed for the Jahanabad sub-division only and ten annas for the sudder distillery area, the intermediate prices being for the rest of the district. I cannot help thinking these prices needlessly low, sacrificing revenue without checking consumption. I annex two tables in which I show the cost of production and the rate of incidence of duty per bottle at varying rates of either per gallon of London-proof. As the cost of production depends more on the quantity of material used than on the strength of the liquor distilled, it appears fair to calculate that it will be reduced in proportion to the decreasing strength of the liquor. Allowing 12 annas for cost of production and Rs. 2 duty per gallon London-proof, a bottle of liquor 60° below proof will cost the distiller 2·93 annas, and I do not think it necessary even in Jahanabad to fix the duty as low as this. Mr. Toynbee thinks that Rs. 2-8 would not be too high, and I agree with him. This rate of duty per gallon London-proof will, according to strength, give duty per bottle—

			Duty per bottle.
At 30°	below proof ...	8½ bottles per gallon ...	4·66 annas.
„ 40°	„ ...	10 „ ...	4·0 „
„ 50°	„ ...	12 „ ...	3·33 „
„ 60°	„ ...	15 „ ...	2·66 „
„ 70°	„ ...	20 „ ...	2·0 „
„ 80°	„ ...	30 „ ...	1·33 „

So far as I have been able to ascertain, the retail price of liquor in Jahanabad, near what was before April 1887 a distillery area, did not fall below four annas the bottle, and the strength appears to have been from 45° to 50° below proof. At Rs. 2-8 duty and 12 annas cost of production per gallon (London-proof), each bottle would cost the vendor 4·33 annas, and the sale of 1,200 bottles, the equivalent of 100 gallons London-proof at five annas each, would give a profit of 1200 × ·666 annas per month = Rs. 49. In Patna it has been found feasible to double the retail price of liquor, and I therefore think it possible to raise it from four annas to five without any risk of driving the people to illicit distillation. I propose to calculate the upset prices of outstill licenses in the Jahanabad sub-division at the rate of Rs. 2-8 per gallon London-proof on their sales, and at the same time to fix a minimum price of five annas per bottle. Ten annas appears to be an unnecessarily low minimum price for the urban area. The duty at Rs. 4 the gallon London-proof comes to 8·5 annas per bottle at 20°, and 7·52 annas at 30° below proof, while the cost of manufacture comes to probably at least 1·5 anna more, so that the price of ten annas would not leave the shop-keeper enough to pay for his license and shop expenses. The Excise Deputy Collector has obtained samples of liquor from nine shops, each four or five miles from the other, so as to give specimens of strength of liquor and retail prices throughout the length of the urban areas of Hooghly and Howrah. Mr. Eagleton has also given me a statement showing retail prices and strength of liquor sold in Howrah and Bally.* I find that from the south as far northward as Rishra no liquor is sold for less than a rupee, but after that, proceeding northward, towards the outstills of Burdwan and Nuddea, liquor becomes weaker and prices lower, till at Mugra, the most northern shop, I find liquor 46° below proof selling at fourteen and 54° below proof at twelve annas. In one case only as low a price as 11 annas was paid, the strength being 34° below proof, but this seems to have been exceptional. I do not see the object of fixing a minimum price in the sudder distillery tract, where regular duty is levied; but if it is advisable, the minimum price in the northern part of the urban area should be 12 annas, and in the southern (including Howrah) one rupee. With reference to the outstill area, I think the minimum prices and also the duty should be graduated from the Rs. 4 and Rs. 5 duty and Re. 1 minimum price in the urban area of Howrah and the southern part of the urban area of Hooghly to Rs. 2-8 duty and 5 annas minimum price

* See page 37.

in the Jahanabad sub-division, taking into consideration the necessity for meeting the competition of cheap liquor on the borders of Burdwan, Nuddea, Midnapore, and the 24-Pergunnahs. At the same time I think it is highly necessary that full inquiry should be made into the cheapness of liquor in those districts, the necessity for the cheapness, and the possibility of increasing the duty on it. I have endeavoured to make some calculations, but find I require more information than I have as to the actual strength of the liquor sold before I can find out what is the actual duty per gallon London-proof which the outstills are paying. As regards the south-eastern part of the district of Burdwan, I am quite satisfied that the duty on liquor may be raised, and with it the minimum price. If the seller has to pay a higher duty, he will be obliged in his own interest to raise the retail price of his liquor; but as the question of fixing minimum prices has been discussed apart from that of raising the duty, I will say a few words in reply to the argument that where buyer and seller find it to their interest to do business at a certain price, it is useless for Government to prescribe a higher price or to interfere with the laws of supply and demand. I will first point out that in Patna the retail price of liquor has been doubled by executive order without habitual evasion of the order or illicit practices. The fact that the Patna liquor was extremely cheap does not appear to me to affect the argument. Secondly, although the shop-keeper of 1886-87 could easily have sold smuggled outstill liquor cheaply without loss, and although the public demand for cheap liquor must have been quite as great as in 1887-88, I am satisfied after careful inquiry that scarcely ever was any liquor sold at the shops for less than twelve annas the bottle, the reason being that if a man were known to be selling liquor below a certain price, the price below which he could not afford to sell central distillery liquor, his license would have been cancelled. It appears to me that the same reason would prevent sales below a prescribed minimum price, and I am, moreover, of opinion that an order of Government is not yet entirely without authority among the people; and that although instances of evasion of a rule might be frequent, it could not be generally or systematically disregarded and disobeyed.

TABLE IV.

Strength.	Number of bottles per gallon, L.P.	Cost of manufacture.							
		At per gallon, L.P. 12 annas.	At per gallon, L.P. 13 annas.	At per gallon, L.P. 14 annas.	At per gallon, L.P. 15 annas.	At per gallon, L.P. 16 annas.	At per gallon, L.P. 17 annas.	At per gallon, L.P. 18 annas.	At per gallon, L.P. 19 annas.
		Per bottle.	Per bottle.	Per bottle.	Per bottle.	Per bottle.	Per bottle.	Per bottle.	Per bottle.
London-proof ...	6	2·0	2·16	2·33	2·49	2·66	2·833	3·	3·16
10° Below proof ...	6⅔	1·8	1·95	2·1	2·25	2·4	2·55	2·7	2·85
20°	7½	1·6	1·73	1·86	2·00	2·13	2·26	2·39	2·53
30°	8⅓	1·41	1·52	1·64	1·76	1·88	2·	2·408	2·23
40°	10	1·2	1·3	1·4	1·5	1·6	1·7	1·8	1 9
50°	12	1·0	1·08	1·16	1·25	1·33	1·41	1·5	1·56
60°	15	·8	·86	·93	·99	1·066	1·13	1·19	1·26
70°	20	·6	·65	·7	·75	·80	·85	·9	·95
80°	30	·4	·433	·466	·499	·53	·56	·59	·63

TABLE V.

Strength.	Number of bottles per gallon.	Duty per bottle when duty on a gallon London-proof is—				
		Re. 1.	Rs. 2.	Rs. 3.	Rs. 4.	Rs. 5.
		Annas.	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.	Annas.
London-proof	6					
10 below proof	6⅔	2·4	4·8	7·2	9·6	12·
20 „	7½	2·133	4·26	6·39	8·5	10·6
30 „	8⅓	1·88	3·76	5·64	7·52	9·40
40 „	10	1·6	3·2	4·8	6·4	8·
50 „	12	1·33	2·66	3·99	5·33	6·66
60 „	15	1·06	2·13	3·19	4·26	5·33
70 „	20	·80	1·6	2·4	3·2	4·
80 „	30	·53	1·06	1·59	2·13	2·66

18. **On the smuggling of outstill liquor into the urban distillery areas.**—The Excise Deputy Collector of Hooghly and Howrah believes that much liquor is smuggled into the town from the nearest outstills. In the north of Hooghly I heard something of suspicions among the people of liquor being smuggled across the Mugra khal, and the Deputy Collector believes that much is brought in from the outstills on the Tarkeshwar Railway. Considering the great difference in cost owing to the lower rate of duty on outstill liquor, I am prepared to believe in a great deal of smuggling, and should expect it to have increased since outstills have been introduced into the area between the riparian towns on one side and Burdwan and Jahanabad on the other. I expected therefore to find that the urban shops had taken less liquor from the distilleries since April 1887. The Excise Deputy Collector of Hooghly, however, informs me that on the contrary the shops in the urban area of Hooghly (exclusive of Howrah) took from the distilleries in the first eleven months of 1886-87 13,936 gallons of liquor, paying duty Rs. 41,759, while in the corresponding period of 1887-88 the quantity has risen to 15,752 gallons, paying duty Rs. 47,207. The average rate of duty per gallon is almost exactly the same, showing an average strength of 25·09° below proof. These figures certainly do not point to increased smuggling. Mr. Bertelsen, District Superintendent of the Police of Hooghly whom I examined at Bhastora (see page 121), states that there is smuggling near the junction of the Tarkeshwar line with the East Indian Railway, and south of it, and has sent me a statement showing thirty cases detected since 1st April 1887, but he knows nothing of any near Mugra. Mr. A. H. James, who knows the district well, and is now Assistant Inspector-General of Railway Police, while sending me a statement of seventeen cases of smuggled liquor seized by the Railway Police since April in Chandernagore, Seoraphoolee, Hooghly, and Howrah, states his belief that a large quantity of liquor must be smuggled. From Howrah I have received a statement of nine cases detected by the District Police since April. Mr. Goodricke, Collector of Calcutta, tells me that in 1886-87 the quantity of liquor taken out of the distilleries for Calcutta and the Suburbs was 202,034 gallons, paying duty Rs. 6,69,190, while in the first nine months of 1887-88 the quantity was 132,489 gallons and the duty Rs. 5,48,339, which is equivalent to an annual consumption of 176,518 gallons only, but a higher duty, Rs. 7,31,118; for Howrah and Bally the amount taken out in 1886-87 was 24,565 gallons and the duty Rs. 77,537, and in nine months of 1887-88 the quantity 15,685 and duty Rs. 63,648, equivalent to an annual consumption of 20,913 gallons only and a higher duty, Rs. 84,864. I am satisfied that since the establishment of outstills at Jhaporda and Andool there has been much more smuggling into Howrah by land than there was before, but river smuggling has probably not much increased, as liquor was obtained as easily when there were outstills on the east bank of the Hooghly only as it is now when there are some on the west bank also. In the north of Hooghly I cannot account for the increased consumption of distillery liquor, but the reason for the absence of any increase in smuggling must indicate that the facilities previously afforded by the outstills of Burdwan and Nuddea were sufficient to meet the demand. Mr. Lambert, Deputy Commissioner of Police in Calcutta, doubts whether smuggling from the riparian outstills of Sarenga and Bowreah would be remunerative, looking to the cost and risks of carriage and the difficulty of eluding—1st, the Howrah Police; 2nd, the Customs Preventive; 3rd, the Excise; 4th, the Port Commissioners' Wharf establishment; 5th, the Calcutta Police. I print at length the following memorandum on the subject of smuggling by Mr. Eagleton, Superintendent of the Excise Preventive Force, whose jurisdiction extends over Howrah and Bally, as well as Calcutta and the Suburbs:—

That outstill liquor is largely smuggled into the sudder distillery area of Russa and Manicktolla there can be no doubt. This liquor is brought into Howrah and Bally in considerable quantities from the outstills at Rajgunge, Andol, Jhapordha and Chonditolla. It is also smuggled into the town and suburbs of Calcutta from these outstills in addition to that brought in from the outstills in the 24-Pergunnahs. A considerable portion of the liquor brought into Howrah, Bally, and the suburbs of Calcutta is for the licensed country liquor shops. It is not, however, as a rule taken direct into the shops, but to women's houses in the neighbourhood, where it is sold at night for and on account of the shops. That introduced by a bottle or two at a time for private consumption must also amount in the

aggregate to a considerable quantity. There is not much brought into the town of Calcutta by licensed vendors, but there are two or three known private smugglers who bring it in for illicit sale, and small quantities are of course brought in for private consumption. Outstill liquor is brought into the area of the sudder distilleries by mail steamer, boat, carriage, cart and hand, all conceivable devices being resorted to to avoid detection. I have detected it in casks, a copper-lined Gladstone bag, a copper-lined hat-box, tins made to fit the body under the arms and strapped over the shoulders, tins to buckle round the waist, very flat tins to fit under the cushions of carriages, the false bottom of a sweetmeat seller's tin-box, bottles, stone jars, and tins of all shapes concealed in carpet bags, boxes, cloth, vegetable and fruit baskets, straw carts, &c., &c., and also in brass and earthen *kulsees*. I have found as many as four and five earthen *kulsees* stowed under the floor of a dinghy with heavy bricks hung over each by strings which a man in the front part of the boat could let go and break the *kulsees* on the approach of the excise officers. It is very, very difficult to detect persons bringing in outstill liquor, for the law does not authorise excise officers to stop and search persons without some reasonable ground of suspicion. Seventeen cases have been detected by my men this year up to date. I have, however, only a force of 17 men, so that there is not much to be done by watching without the aid of informers; and unless they are well rewarded, it is more profitable for them to go on the side of the smugglers than of Government. It seems to me therefore that if the introduction of outstill liquor within distillery limits is to be effectually put a stop to, either the cost must be assimilated with that of liquor passed out of the sudder distilleries, or the limit of retail sale and possession must be reduced to one seer or one reputed quart bottle. If one or both of these plans cannot be adopted, then the only means left appears to be to make use of informers; in fact this seems necessary whatever plan is pursued, but this can only be done with any degree of success by guaranteeing them and excise officers really handsome rewards in all cases, independently of the fines which may be imposed by the Magistrates, which frequently do not exceed Rs. 10 for introducing one gallon of outstill liquor. Under section 61 of the Bengal Excise Act VII of 1878, no person other than a licensed vendor may have in his possession any larger quantity than that fixed for the limit of retail sale under section 15, and this limit is one seer or one reputed quart bottle of country spirit, or such larger quantity as the Board may fix from time to time; and under the Board's circular order No. 6 of April 1878 (*vide* also No. 4 of March 1883) the limit of retail sale of country spirit is fixed at "six quart bottles." If then this circular order is cancelled, and the limit of retail sale remains, as under section 15, at one seer or one reputed quart bottle, the limit of possession becomes the same under section 61, and a very great obstacle is at once placed in the way of persons introducing outstill liquor; for, in the first place, it will not pay to make frequent journeys of any distance for only one bottle at a time, and in the second, detection will be far easier, especially in the immediate vicinity of the outstills, and also within the sudder distillery limits, for persons detected with not more than six quart bottles of outstill liquor in their possession will not, as they frequently now do, be able to say that the liquor has been purchased from a licensed shop within distillery limits, a previous understanding having been made with the shop-keeper to say, if questioned, that it has. On the other hand, I do not think that reducing the limit of sale from six to one reputed quart bottle would in any way affect the business of the licensed vendors, for the retail sale of country liquor very rarely exceeds one bottle to one person at one time. A statement showing the selling price of country liquor in some of the licensed shops in Howrah and Bally is annexed. It is, however, almost impossible to ascertain from a few occasional purchases what the actual average selling price at a shop really is, for vendors will not turn a purchaser away: they either reduce the quantity or strength or both to meet the price the purchaser tenders. In this statement I have taken into consideration, the quantity sold, the strength, and the increased quantity produced by reduction of strength; still there is nothing to show what quantity of each of the various qualities produced by reduction of strength is sold by a shop-keeper in, say, one month. I am, however, of opinion that a gross profit of from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3 per gallon in average is a very fair estimate to take at the present time in Howrah and Bally. I may add that sales in shops situated in localities inhabited by persons of the lower class are made with larger profits than those in shops surrounded by persons of the higher class; that is, low class persons will pay the same price for short measure and weaker liquor as persons of the higher class for full measure and stronger liquor.

Mr. Eagleton adds the following figures:—

Statement showing the selling price, &c., of country liquor in some of the licensed shops in Howrah and Bally.

Serial number.	Locality of Shop.	Quantity of liquor purchased.	Strength.	Price per bottle.	Selling price per Imperial gallon.	Average cost per Imperial gallon laid down in shop, average duty being Rs. 4-2 per Imperial gallon, and strength 17·5 U.P.	The average strength as passed from distillery being 1·75 U.P. Every gallon on being reduced to the strength in column 4 is increased in volume by—	Selling value of increased quantity.	Total selling price per Imperial gallon received in shop from distillery.	Gross profit per Imperial gallon.
				Rs. A.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	Gallons.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
114	15, Dobson's Road	1 bottle=19½ oz.	21 U.P.	1 2	9 5 7	5	·044	0 6 7	9 12 2	4 12 2
120	88, Ghoosery Road	1 „ =24 „	21 „	1 4	8 5 4	5	·044	0 5 10	8 11 2	Rs. 5-0-11 { 3 11 2 / 6 6 8
...	Ditto ...	1 „ =21½ „	45 „	1 0	7 8 5	5	·518	3 14 3	11 6 8	
122	206, Hooghly Road...	1 „ =23 „	38 „	1 0	6 15 3	5	·330	2 4 8	9 3 11	4 11 3
127	26, Grand Trunk Road.	1 „ =23½ „	22 „	1 2	7 11 10	5	·057	0 7 0	8 2 10	Rs. 3-15-8 { 3 2 10 / 4 12 6
...	Ditto ...	1 „ =23½ „	42 „	1 0	6 14 1	5	·422	2 14 5	9 12 6	
130	104, Ditto ...	1 „ =22½ „	18 „	1 0	7 1 6	5	·006	0 0 8	7 2 2	2 2 2
134	103, Khooroot Road	1 „ =24 „	21 „	1 0	6 10 8	5	·044	0 4 8	6 15 4	1 15 8

Cases detected by the Excise Preventive Force from 1st April 1887 to date.

Case No.	Court in which disposed of.	Fines and imprisonment imposed.	Quantity of liquor introduced.	From whence introduced.	Remarks.
		Rs.			
54	Northern Division.	2	1 bottle ...	Patna ...	Mowah.
72	Sealdah ...	100	.....	.....	Illicit sale of liquor known to be from an outstill.
160	Northern Division.	200	1 gallon ...	Budge-Budge	Cost Rs. 2, steamer fare 4 annas, and bringing in 8 annas; total Rs. 2-12.
163	Howrah ...	10	1 „ ...	Jhaporda ...	Cost Rs. 2-4 and bringing in 12 annas; total Rs. 3.
168	Sealdah ...	60	2 gallons ...	Budge-Budge	Cost Rs. 4, steamer fare, two men, 8 annas, and bringing in Re. 1; total Rs. 5-8.
169	Howrah ...	5	1 bottle ...	Andol ...	.....
172	Northern Division.	10	1 gallon ...	Budge-Budge	.....
173	Sealdah ...	125 & 4 months' imprisonment.	.....	.....	Illicit sale of liquor known to be from an outstill.
184	Howrah ...	10	1 bottle ...	Jhaporda ...	Brought in by a coachman.
212	Sealdah ...	50	.....	.....	Illicit sale of liquor, believed to be from Barasat.
213	Do. ...	120	.....	.....	Ditto ditto.
236	Howrah ...	75	.....	.....	2½ gallons excess liquor, 19° U. P., found in a licensed shop, believed to be from Jhaporda.
237	Sealdah ...	100	1 gallon ...	Andol ...	Cost Rs. 3-12, steamer fare 4 annas, gharry 4 annas; total Rs. 4-4. 17° U. P.
242	Do. ...	200	1 „ ...	Barasat ...	Cost Rs. 2, gharry hire Re. 1-8; total Rs. 3-8. 18° U. P.
245	Southern Division.	10	¾ „ ...	Rajgunge ...	Cost Rs. 2-2-6, boat hire 2 annas; total Rs. 2-4-6. 25° U. P.
246	Do. ...	5	1 pint ...	Andol ...	Cost 5 annas. 26° U. P.
247	Northern Division.	2	1 bottle ...	Raneegunge...	Mowah; cost 3 annas. 61° U. P.

The following table supplied to me by Mr. Eagleton also appears worth printing, especially with reference to the shops in Howrah and Bally. Column 3 shows the amount which each shop has to pay to Government in license fees, and columns 5 and 6 the profit of the vendor on his ostensible sales out of which profit he has to pay the said license fees besides all his shop expenses :—

SUBURBS.

1	2	3	4	5	6	
Towji number.	Localities of Shops.	Total amount of license fees from April 1887 to February 1888.	Total consumption in gross gallons from April 1887 to February 1888.	Nett sale proceeds at Re. 1-4 per bottle, less Rs. 5 per gallon cost and duty.	Nett sale proceeds at Re. 1-2-8 per bottle.	Remarks.
		Rs.	Gals.	Rs. A. P.	Rs.	
57	62, Cassipore Road	1,100	684	1,710 0 0	1,368	
58	22, Ditto	1,771	676	1,690 0 0	1,352	
59	6-2, Lockgate Road	1,468	862	2,155 0 0	1,724	
60	24-1-1, Tallah Road	1,573	1,599	3,997 8 0	3,198	
61	13, Lockgate Road	825	1,254	3,135 0 0	2,508	
62	40, Barackpore Trunk Road	1,439	865	2,162 8 0	1,730	
63	1, Shambazar Bridge Road ...	2,200	1,778	4,445 0 0	3,556	
64	37-1, Canal West Road ...	2,599	1,255	3,137 8 0	2,510	
65	23, Halsee Bagan	1,361	1,510	3,775 0 0	3,020	
66	144, Manicktola Street ...	2,914	2,564	6,410 0 0	5,128	
67	12, Northern Circular Road...	1,650	1,364	3,410 0 0	2,728	
68	201, Canal East Road ...	1,650	922	2,305 0 0	1,844	
69	6-2, Northern Circular Road	1,558	1,135	2,837 8 0	2,270	
70	145, Balliaghatta Road ...	1,318	903	2,257 8 0	1,806	
71	127-103, Ditto ...	1,870	989	2,472 8 0	1,978	
72	26, Ditto ...	1,276	740	1,850 0 0	1,480	
73	1-1, Chingrihatta Road ...	368	262	655 0 0	524	
74	95, Ditto ...	990	1,111	2,777 8 0	2,222	
75	2, Munshibazar Road ...	2,442	1,162	2,905 0 0	2,324	
76	96, Southern Circular Road ...	1,991	1,836	4,590 0 0	3,672	
77	70, South Road Entally ...	1,405	1,440	3,600 0 0	2,880	
78	41, Foolbagan Road ...	1,246	1,260	3,150 0 0	2,520	
79	30, South Road Entally ...	2,471	1,868	4,670 0 0	3,736	
80	5-1-1, Tiljallah Road ...	1,672	1,088	2,720 0 0	2,176	
81	66, South Circular Road ...	945	593	1,482 8 0	1,186	
82	41, Kurrya Bazar Road ...	740	414	1,035 0 0	828	
83	1, Jannagore Road	1,650	1,587	3,967 8 0	3,174	
84	1, Chuckerberiah Road ..	1,100	699	1,747 8 0	1,398	
85	21-5, Southern Circular Road	1,540	778	1,945 0 0	1,556	
86	33, Woolput Bagan Road ...	1,925	847	2,117 8 0	1,694	
87	5-4, Peepulpatty Road ...	991	941	2,352 8 0	1,882	
88	121, Russa Road (North) ...	2,255	2,332	5,830 0 0	4,664	
89	113, Ditto ...	1,375	1,663	4,157 8 0	3,326	
90	1, Badiapara Road ...	2,200	1,629	4,072 8 0	3,258	
91	61, Sankaripara Road ...	1,155	1,238	3,095 0 0	2,476	
92	37, Russa Road (North) ...	1,870	1,293	3,232 8 0	2,586	
93	49, Ditto ...	1,925	1,323	3,307 8 0	2,646	
94	96, Kalighat Road ...	1,210	988	2,470 0 0	1,976	
95	32-33, Ditto ...	1,815	1,208	3,020 0 0	2,416	
96	79, Ditto ...	3,740	1,776	4,440 0 0	3,552	
97	81-7, Talliganj Road ...	1,485	401	1,002 8 0	802	
98	43, Cheltahat Road ...	1,980	1,087	2,717 8 0	2,174	
99	55-5, Diamond Harbour Road	1,650	920	2,300 0 0	1,840	
100	86, Ditto ...	3,550	994	2,485 0 0	1,988	
101	153, Circular Garden Reach Road.	2,313	1,857	4,642 8 0	3,714	
102	154, Ditto ...	3,905	2,590	6,475 0 0	5,180	
103	134-1-1, Ditto ...	1,925	1,390	3,475 0 0	2,780	
104	120-1, Ditto ...	1,441	1,546	3,865 0 0	3,092	
105	16, 19, Harobash Road ...	1,221	706	1,765 0 0	1,412	
106	104-2, Circular Garden Reach	2,310	1,012	2,530 0 0	2,024	
107	74-1, Garden Reach Road ...	2,123	1,194	2,985 0 0	2,388	
108	25, Watganj Road ...	1,600	993	2,482 8 0	1,986	
109	7, Ditto ...	2,420	2,655	6,637 8 0	5,310	
110	91A, Koonya Road ...	1,060	807	2,017 8 0	1,614	

HOWRAH AND BALLY.

Towji numbers.	Localities of Shops.	Total amount of license fees from April 1887 to February 1888.	Total consumption in Gross gallons from April 1887 to February 1888.	Nett sale proceeds at Re. 1-4 per bottle less Rs. 5 per gallon cost and duty.			Nett sale proceeds at Re. 1-2-8 per bottle.	Remarks.
		Rs.	Gals.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	
112	20, Cullen Place	2,046	551	1,377	8	0	1,102	Sales of rum and imported liquor, good.
113	101, Dobson's Road	1,760	401	1,002	8	0	802	Sales of rum, good.
114	26, Ditto	1,760	568	1,420	0	0	1,136	Sales of rum, good; imported liquor, small.
115	2, Ditto	1,760	635	1,587	8	0	1,270	Ditto ditto.
116	138, Salt Golaghat Road ...	1,155	554	1,385	0	0	1,108	Sales of rum, good; imported liquor, good.
117	121, Howrah Road	1,870	672	1,680	0	0	1,344	Sales of rum, small; imported liquor, good.
118	48, Ditto	2,563	1,302	3,255	0	0	2,604	Gives Rs. 63 per month for working expenses and rent. Sales of rum, small; imported liquor, fair.
119	154, Hurroganj Road ...	3,025	952	2,380	0	0	1,904	Sales of rum, small; imported liquor, fair.
120	86, Ghoosoory Road	1,815	549	1,372	8	0	1,098	Sales of rum, very small; imported liquor, very small.
121	23, Ichapore Road	825	405	1,012	8	0	810	Ditto ditto.
122	245, Hooghly Road	50	50	125	0	0	100	Open only for 2 months.
123	188, Ditto (9 *months*) ...	765	332	830	0	0	664	Sales of rum, very small; imported liquor, very small.
124	351, Ditto	814	404	1,010	0	0	808	Ditto ditto.
125	120, Grand Trunk Road ...	2,728	1,049	2,622	8	0	2,098	Ditto ditto.
126	223, Ditto	2,090	600	1,500	0	0	1,200	Ditto ditto.
127	40, Ditto	1,980	731	1,827	8	0	1,462	Sales of rum, small; imported liquor, very small.
128	15, Ditto	2,640	879	2,197	8	0	1,758	Sales of rum, small; imported liquor, good.
129	66, Ditto	4,180	1,266	3,165	0	0	2,532	Sales of rum, good; imported liquor, very good.
130	104, Ditto	1,650	1,258	3,145	0	0	2,516	Gives Rs. 136 per month for working expenses and rent. Sales of rum, small; imported liquor, small.
131	111, Ditto	2,255	1,357	3,392	8	0	2,714	Gives Rs. 94-8 per month for working expenses and rent. Sales of rum, small; imported liquor, good.
132	184, Ditto (4 *months*) ...	676	350	875	0	0	700	Gives Rs. 50 per month for working expenses and rent. Sales of rum small; imported liquor small.
133	257, Ditto	1,001	1,176	2,940	0	0	2,352	Gives Rs. 116 per month for working expenses and rent. Sales of rum, good; imported liquor, good.
134	103, Khooroot Road	1,540	1,172	2,930	0	0	2,344	Gives Rs. 116 per month for working expenses and rent. Sales of rum, good; imported liquor, good.
135	449, Circular Road	704	255	637	8	0	510	Sales of rum, very small; imported liquor, very small.
136	344, Makarda Road, (6 *months*)	369	238	595	0	0	476	Ditto ditto.
137	232, Dores' Road	1,760	1,048	2,620	0	0	2,096	Gives Rs. 78 per month for working expenses and rent. Sales of rum, very small; imported liquor, very small.
138	294, Ditto	136	.....	.....			.....	.....

These figures appear to me clearly to show that out of 26 shops in Howrah and Bally, 13, even if they sell no liquor for less than Re. 1-4 the bottle, do

not clear sufficient profit to cover their license fees, without considering their shop rent, servants' wages, or other expenses. I can only conclude that their profits are really derived from successful smuggling. Several excise and police officers have drawn my attention to the fact that the fines inflicted by Magistrates are frequently so insignificant that the rewards paid to detective officers are not enough to induce them to do their duty; but though Magistrates are in some cases to blame, in others they cannot inflict higher fines than they do, because the offenders before them are only impecunious coolies and not their wealthy employers. In such cases rewards might be paid from the general excise revenue, under section 78 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1878, to a much greater extent than they are at present. A weak point in the detective arrangements is the difficulty of entrusting subordinate detective officers with ample powers of search, for fear of their misusing them. I believe that when Baboos are returning to their work on Monday morning from their country homes, an immense quantity of liquor is smuggled in their hackney carriages, besides all that can be easily brought in by carts and coolies, concealed under other articles. The neutral zone appears to have been absolutely ineffectual, and if it were at once abolished, I do not think smuggling would increase. To prevent smuggling while the present inequality in the duty on liquor continues would require an enormous increase in the detective agency employed, and also an increase in their powers of search. I am very strongly of opinion that to prevent smuggling the duty must be as nearly as possible equalised.

19. On detective and preventive establishments.—I believe that there is no illicit distillation now, and that there has been none for many years if ever in Hooghly or Howrah or the adjoining tracts, but that there is, and has been, an enormous amount of smuggling of outstill liquor into areas which should draw their supplies from central distilleries, and that this smuggling is due to the much higher rate at which duty is levied on central distillery liquor. Although we may succeed in reducing the amount of smuggling by reducing the difference, and by approximate equalisation of the rates of duty, there will always be some smuggling wherever any difference remains, and with this our present establishments are quite inadequate to deal. Taking the districts of Hooghly and Howrah only, it would require very much larger establishments than we have now to watch all the roads and paths and waterways by which the boundary of the distillery area can be passed, and to ensure the detection of smuggling it would be necessary to give the men extended powers of search, with which they are hardly to be trusted. They are not honest, and if the bribes offered by smugglers exceed the rewards which they may expect, the detectives will succumb to the temptation. I think that there is room for much improvement in the supervision and control of the men, and from my own experience as a District Officer I should prefer placing them under the regular police administration of the district, while still paying them from the excise revenue, to leaving them to the supervision of a Deputy Collector. In this Mr. Toynbee agrees with me, but Mr. Oldham does not, and I can only submit the point for consideration. Where the excise establishments are controlled as they are by Mr. Eagleton in Howrah and Calcutta there is no necessity for change, but generally I should expect much greater efficiency if the detective and excise establishments were administered as part of the district police force by the District Superintendent. The Excise Inspectors belong to a class of men who never do their best without thoroughly efficient supervision, and Mr. Toynbee has pointed out to me that there is occasional friction between the police and excise officers from which the public service suffers.

20. On the efficacy of restricting distilling and fermenting capacity as a check on production.—When outstills were introduced it was hoped that by restricting the capacity of the stills and fermenting vats production would be restricted to the actual local demand. There were, however, as I have pointed out, some difficulties in the way of ascertaining the real local demand, and in the case of Jhaporda and some other places the excise authorities increased the capacity, because a distiller was found who estimated the local demand more highly than the Deputy Collector had. It is now believed that the Jhaporda distiller smuggles largely into the urban area, so the original estimate was probably the more correct of the two. To

illustrate the method of the proposed restriction and its success, I will examine the case of the outstill at Pondooa, where the actual sales have exceeded the estimated local demand. The local demand was estimated at 150 gallons London-proof per month. The outturn of London-proof spirit is calculated at three gallons to the maund (40 seers) of material, which in the Hooghly and Howrah outstills is molasses. One hundred and fifty gallons of spirit would require the fermentation of 50 maunds of molasses. The outstill was allowed a 40-gallon still which worked two-thirds full would take about 26 gallons of wash. The wash should contain 25 per cent. molasses and 75 per cent. fluid, water and spent wash. At four seers to the gallon each distillation should take 26 seers of molasses, fermented in 26 gallons of wash, or, say roughly, 30 seers and 30 gallons, and distilling three times a day, or ninety times a month, the still should work off $30 \times 90 = 2{,}700$ seers $= 67\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. The further restriction necessary was to be made in the capacity of the fermenting jars, and on the calculation that fermentation takes eight days in hot and twelve in cold weather, the still is allowed 24 and 36 jars according to season. They are supposed to contain each 20 gallons, but I measured one to be 18 only. This number of jars would give 90 jars fermented every month, and each containing 20 seers material, the quantity of molasses worked off in the month would be only 45 maunds, not 50. The outturn would be $(45 \times 3) = 135$ instead of 150 gallons. On reference to my notes taken at Pondooa on page 61 of the appendix, it will be seen that the outstill books show $502\frac{1}{2}$ maunds worked off in nine months, or an average of 55·8 maunds a month, while in June $80\frac{1}{4}$ maunds were used. It is therefore clear that the restrictions have not been efficacious. One reason of this has been that instead of 20 seers of molasses, 30 seers are put into each jar, and the jar containing only 18 gallons, the wash contains 41 per cent. of molasses instead of 25 per cent. only. Of the evil result of distilling from a wash of such density I will speak presently. This excessive density of the wash accounts for working off $67\frac{1}{2}$ maunds instead of 45, but in June I have to account for $80\frac{1}{4}$ maunds. The still is a metal one, and is supposed to be capable of distilling six times a day, while an earthen one should distil only three times, but the capacity of the jars is supposed to prevent more than 90 distillations in the month. This is on the understanding that fermentation takes eight days in the hot weather, but in fact it takes much less, as a reference to the testimony of various distillers noted by me in the appendix will show that five or six days is long enough for fermentation in the hot weather. Twenty-four jars every six days would allow of 120 distillations instead of 90, and would work off 90 maunds of molasses. In this case, with restrictions calculated to limit the quantity of material used in the month to 45 maunds, the outstill has actually, without increasing capacity, worked off $80\frac{1}{4}$ maunds, and the annexed table shows that not in Pondooa alone, but in the majority of outstills the quantity of material worked off has exceeded that to which it was believed that the still was restricted. The question whether the fluid capacity of fermenting jars could be restricted or not has not arisen, but the principle as applied has not practically limited the quantity of material used.

TABLE VI.

HOOGHLY—SUDDER SUB-DIVISION.

1	2	3	4	5	6	
	Total monthly fermenting capacity allowed.	Material of still.	Actual total fluid capacity of stil.	Estimated monthly consumption of material at 1 in 4 of wash.	AMOUNT OF MATERIAL ACTUALLY USED.	
					Average ditto monthly.	Maximum in any month.
	Gallons.		Gallons.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
Gooptipara	900	Copper	21	22½	21	45
Sreepoor	675	Ditto	21	16¾	30	47
Boinchee	1,200	Ditto	25—allowed 20.	30	25½	57½
Pondooa	1,800	Ditto	40 ?	45	55	64
Bhastora	600	Ditto	18	15	16	20
Dasghora	900	Earthen	16	22½	17	25
Dhanyakhalee	1,350	Ditto	31	33¾	34	48½
Dwarbasinee	900	Copper	22	22½	29	49
Makalpoor	900	Ditto	19	22½	14	22½
Sainya	900	Earthen	?	22½	25	39½

HOOGHLY—SERAMPORE SUB-DIVISION.

1	2	3	4	5	6	
	Total monthly fermenting capacity allowed.	Material of still.	Actual total fluid capacity of still.	Estimated monthly consumption of material at 1 in 4 of wash.	AMOUNT OF MATERIAL ACTUALLY USED.	
					Average ditto monthly.	Maximum in any month.
	Gallons.		Gallons.	Maunds.	Maunds.	Maunds.
Tarkeshwar	1,800	Earthen	45—allowed 40.	45	27	39
Janda	900	Ditto	20	22½	12	20
Dipa	900	Ditto	19	22½	20	31½
Haripal	2,362	? Earthen	52½—allowed 50.	59	65	81
Krishtonogor	1,200 ?	Earthen	17	30	18	23
Sheokhala	1,800	Ditto	36½—allowed 50.	45	41	55
Nalikool	900	?	20	22½	18	28
Singoor	1,800	Copper	30	45	52	63
Chonditala	2,700	Earthen	50	67½	89	108

HOWRAH—SUDDER SUB-DIVISION.

Jogotbollobhpoor	1,500	Earthen	31—allowed 30.	37½	29	51
Joynogor	1,200	Ditto	Not noted; broken.		Not noted.	
Andool	2,700	?	50	67½	94	121
Sarenga	1,200	? Earthen	20	30	50	55
Jhaporda	2,700	.....	50	67½	84	93
Majoo	900 ?	Earthen	11	22½	16	20

HOWRAH—OOLOOBERIYA SUB-DIVISION.

Amta	1,500	? Earthen	30	37½	49	64
Bagnan	1,200	? Ditto	20	30	23½	30½
Kantopokhor	600	Ditto	15—allowed 10.	20	8	12
Kharooberiya	600	? Ditto	10	15	12	13
Oolooberiya	2,700	Earthen	30	67½	54	59
Bowreah	1,500	?	30	37½	43	53

The fermenting capacity shown in column 2 does not always correspond with the estimated local demand shown in table II, because the Deputy Collector raised or lowered the latter according to the amounts bid for monthly licenses, thus allowing the bidder's estimate to supersede his own.

21. On materials used and methods of manufacture.—I do not propose to recapitulate the valuable information given under this head by the Excise Commission in Chapter IV of its report, to which I consider mine to be on this point only supplementary, or the result of the experiments of Baboo Obhoy C. Das and Dr. Warden made in 1886. I found that *mahawa* was only used in the single still at Haripal, and my notes upon it will be found in the appendix, page 93, in the record of my visit to that place. I had no further opportunity of observing the use of this material. In all the other stills the material used is molasses, and the process is that described in paragraph 50 of the Excise Commission's Report, where a correct drawing of the still is given. The only difference is that sometimes earthen and sometimes copper stills are used. In some of my earlier visits I omitted to note the material of the still. The average outturn of spirit to the maund of material is by no means uniformly three gallons London-proof, and considering the varying proportion of saccharine in different samples of molasses, this is not surprising. In the annexed table VII I give the outturn as taken by me from the accounts kept at the different outstills, omitting such figures as were evidently inaccurate. I also show approximately the average strength, and from it have deduced the outturn of London-proof spirit, but I cannot be sure that I have ascertained the strength correctly, as I could only test such liquor as happened to be actually in stock at each outstill when I visited it, and had nothing but the vendor's rough estimate by which to judge of the proportion of sales of each quality of liquor. Some observations may be made on the effect on the outturn of the material and capacity of the still, the strength of the liquor, and

the density of the wash, but the latter, as shown in column 9 of the table, only shows the proportion which the molasses, as stated by the vendor, bears to the whole wash. The proportion of saccharine in the molasses varies enormously, some being treacle from which the sugar has been extracted, and some containing all its sugar. Most of it requires the admixture of hard dry sugar to make it ferment, but I doubt the information which I have collected on this point being sufficiently accurate to make it worth while to analyse it, or make any deductions from it. The molasses generally used is the treacle (*mát*) left after the extraction of sugar (*chinee*) from date molasses, and it is called *kootra* or *chita goor*. Most of it comes from Nuddea. Sometimes date sugar from which the *chinee* has not been extracted is used. It is called *shár*, or *nagoree goor*, but I understand that it is not generally available except in the winter season. The Excise Deputy Collector distinguishes between *mát* or *chita* and *kootra*, saying that *kootra* has been boiled, and that *mát* or *chita* has not. He says that *kootra* takes longer to ferment than other molasses, but when I received this information it was too late for me to verify it. Cane sugar is also used, both before the *chinee* is extracted, when it is called *shár*, and afterwards, when it is called *mát*. The general name for it in either condition is *sháchee*. At Janda I found the *mát* of *sháchee* used alone, at Dasghora equal quantities of *sháchee* and *kootra*, at Dhanyakhalee three parts of *kootra* to one of *sháchee*. There appears to be no general rule, each still using the molasses which happens to be the cheapest. I find, however, that in almost every case a small quantity of hard dry cane sugar known as *dhima* or *bhelee*, from a tenth to a sixtieth part of the material, is put into the wash with the other molasses. The difference in the quality of the molasses appears to me to account sufficiently for the differences in the outturn of spirit which is shown in column 6 of table VII, ranging from 1·78 to 5·93 gallons of London-proof spirit to the maund of material. In column 9 I have shown how many parts of molasses the distiller says he uses in 100 parts of wash. The rest of the wash is made up of water and spent wash from which spirit has been distilled, and which is generally sufficient to set up fermentation. When it is not, the distiller uses *bakar* which is described on page 40, volume i of the Report of the Excise Commission. The proportion of spent wash to water varies from half to one in seven. There appears to be no uniform practice as to leaving the jars open, or stirring the contents, but I think that they are generally closed and left undisturbed when fermentation has begun, which is about the third day. The period of fermentation ranges from as little as four or five days in the heat of May and June, to thirteen or fourteen days in the winter. The excise authorities in calculating the fermenting capacity allow eight days for seven months and twelve days for five months of the year. I think, if strictness were desired, five days would be enough to allow in the hottest and twelve in the coldest weather. The experiments recorded by Baboo Obhoy C. Das give from seven to ten days in May and June. Calculations are made on the basis of three distillations in the day with an earthen and six with a copper still. An earthen still will certainly give four, but I doubt a copper one giving six, with the clumsy and tedious devices in use for filling and emptying it. If the distiller chooses in defiance of the conditions of his license to distil at night, I do not think any one would interfere with him. Dr. Warden considered that to get the maximum quantity of alcohol there should be six parts of fluid to one of material in winter and four to one in summer. I have shown how much less fluid than this the distillers use, and I do not find that they make any difference according to season. The Deputy Collector says that the jars are sometimes put in the sun to accelerate fermentation, but as they are apt to burst with the weight of their contents unless half buried in the ground, I do not understand how they can be carried about with the wash in them. I do not think the practice can be common, and all the distillers except one deny it. I observe that all the faults noticed at the end of paragraph 47, Chapter IV, volume 1 of the Commission's Report, are common in the outstills I have visited: excessive density of wash; rapid firing; and filthiness of utensils. I have not calculated the average number of distillations in the month, because they vary so much as to make averages misleading, and I need only say that with earthen stills they have often not been more than one or two in the day except in May and June, when every still appears to have been active.

TABLE VII.

HOOGHLY—SUDDER SUB-DIVISION.

POSITION OF OUTSTILL.	Quantity of molasses used, as shown in outstill books.	Outturn of spirit, as shown in books.	Average outturn of spirit from each maund of molasses.	Average strength of spirit shown in column 3, as nearly as it could be ascertained.	Average outturn of spirit from each maund of molasses reduced to London-proof strength.	Material of still.	Fluid capacity of still.	Percentage of molasses to wash as stated by distillers.	REMARKS.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Mds.	Gals.	Gals.	Below proof.	Gals.		Gals.		
Gooptipara	191	918	4·8	35	3·12	Copper ...	21	25	
Sreepoor	274	1,372	5·0	33	3·35	Do. ...	21	30	
Boinchee	219	1,514	6·91	35	4·49	Do. ...	25	23	
Pondooa	562	2,480	4·04	30	3·45	Do. ...	40	41	
Bhatora	161	980	6·08	40	3·64	Do. ...	18	30	
Dasghora	172	1,267	7·36	43	4·19	Earthen ...	16	47	
Dhanyakhalee	341	1,823	5·34	43	3·04	Do. ...	31	30	
Dwarbasinee	292	1,412	4·83	34	3·18	Copper ...	22	25	
Makalpoor	148	932	6·29	33	4·21	Do. ...	19	28	
Sainya	247	1,037	4·19	40	2·51	Earthen ...	?	25	

HOOGHLY—SERAMPORE SUB-DIVISION.

Tarkeshwar	271	1,619	5·93	43	3·38	Earthen ...	45	33	
Janda	120	800	6·66	48	3·46	Do. ...	20	29	
Dipa	199	1,173	5·89	34	3·88	Do. ...	19	25	
Haripal ... { Mahawa	75	455	6·06	59	2·48	} (?) ...	52	{ 44*	* Mahawa.
Haripal ... { Molasses	478	2,001	4·18	36	2·67	}		{ 35	
Krishtonogor	180	1,669	9·27	36	5·93	Earthen ...	17	25	
Sheokhala	369	1,145	3·1	26	2·22	Do. ...	36	52	
Nalikool	181	702	3·87	30	2·7	(?)	20	31	
Singoor	464	1,727	3·72	27	2·71	Copper ...	30	33	
Chonditala	801	2,737	3·41	24	2·6	Earthen ...	50	33	

HOWRAH—SUDDER SUB-DIVISION.

Jogotbollobhpoor	263	1,054	4·0	22	3·12	Earthen ...	31	37	
Joynogor	?	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	27	
Andool	762	1,948	2·55	30	1·78	(?) ...	50	33	
Sarenga	443	1,552	3·5	17	2·5	Earthen ...	24	27	
Jhaporda	758	2,141	2·82	22	2·2	(?) ...	50	33	
Majoo	49	217	4·42	20	3·53	Earthen ...	11	33	

HOWRAH—OOLOOBERIYA SUB-DIVISION.

Amta	445	1,443	3·24	37	2·04	? Earthen ...	30	50	
Bagnan	213	778	3·65	25	2·73	Do. ...	20	41	
Kantopokhor	73	297	4·06	39	2·47	Do. ...	15	31	
Kharooberiya	37	179	4·83	30	3·24	?	10	37	
Oolooberiya	485	1,755	3·61	23	2·77	Earthen ...	30	37	
Bowreah	318	1,336	4·2	19	3·40	(·) ...	30	40	

22. On the cost of production.—The cost of production is a subject into which I have inquired, but I have not satisfied myself as to the truth. In the appendix will be found some calculations made on the occasions of my visiting Jhaporda, Sreepoor and other outstills, but the *abkars* naturally endeavoured to minimise their profits by exaggerating their expenditure. The Jhaporda calculation* gives the cost of working off 67½ maunds of material in a month, including shop-rent and selling charges, at Rs. 215, which with an outturn of three gallons (London-proof) to the maund would give Re. 1·06 per gallon. Perhaps the following may be taken as a very liberal estimate for an outstill working off 30 maunds of material, to meet an estimated monthly demand of 90 gallons :—

	Rs.	A.
29 maunds 10 seers treacle at Rs. 2	58	8
30 seers hard sugar at Rs. 3-8	2	10
25 maunds firewood at 3 annas	4	11
Servants	12	0
Deterioration of buildings	2	0
Rent	1	0
Contingencies	2	0
Total ...	92	13

* Page 49.

I believe that if the real truth could be ascertained, the cost of productions would be found to be from twelve to fourteen annas the gallon (London-proof). These figures should be compared with those given in Chapter IV of the Excise Commission's Report, in which no shop charges or rent are included.

23. On the quality of outstill liquor.—I have obtained some evidence to the effect that the outstill liquor is, independently of any difference in strength, inferior to that previously sold at licensed shops. Consumers contradict one another on the point, but I think there is certainly some indication that outstill liquor produces headache, thirst, nausea, pains in the stomach, and symptoms of inflammation, to an extent which is not attributed to the article formerly obtained from the shops. Much of this may be due to excessive density of the wash, imperfect fermentation, and rapid firing, producing an undue proportion of fusel oil. Women at Jhaporda and Kharooberiya deposed to a strong smell of tobacco in the liquor, but otherwise I could obtain no indication of its being drugged. The *abkars* of course deny using any drugs, or fumigating the jars with anything but burning straw and sometimes mango leaves, and there is no evidence against them. It would be easy to obtain samples of liquor for chemical analysis, but I have not considered that it fell within the scope of my inquiry to do so.

24. Summary.—It remains to state briefly the general conclusions at which I have arrived. The substitution of outstills for licensed liquor shops in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah has reduced the retail price of a bottle of country spirit by one-half, without any corresponding reduction in alcoholic strength. Consumption has been encouraged rather than checked, while revenue has been unnecessarily sacrificed. Upset prices being based upon a low rate of duty, and there being little or no competition generally among the *abkars*, licenses have been granted at such low fees that the tax levied on the liquor is very much below that levied on spirits produced in central distilleries, and vendors make a larger profit now on each bottle than they could make by selling central distillery liquor at double the price. I do not believe that the fall in price has led to the expenditure of much more money on liquor than before, but those consumers who used to drink the shop liquor can now afford to drink twice as often and those who used to go occasionally to the outstills in adjoining districts for liquor, either to drink it on the spot or to smuggle it to their homes, can now purchase more frequently without going to so great a distance. Some of those who previously drank fermented *taree*, now drink country spirits. The extent to which certain classes of the people formerly abstained from the use of intoxicating liquors has been greatly exaggerated, and the classes who now drink country spirits are only those who drank it before according to their means. The cheapening of liquor has not induced its use among classes who previously abstained from it, and in the classes which previously drank the number of individuals who use liquor has not been proved to have greatly increased: still less is it proved that there is more drunkenness. Those who now drink more liquor than they did a year ago do not drink more at one time, but drink more frequently, and I think it may be possible that the quantity consumed at one sitting is even less than it used to be when the occasion came less often. As regards the lower classes, there is no ground for the assumption that every man who drinks spirits is a drunkard, or that a man gets drunk every time he drinks Whether this can be said of the higher classes, the Baboos, I am not prepared to say. Their drinking is seldom in public, and I have no evidence of the extent to which it is carried. The use of spirits by women and boys of the lower orders is no new thing. They undoubtedly drink more since the price of liquor has fallen, but women rarely drink in public, and very few of them, except prostitutes, drink to intoxication. That schoolboys generally have taken to drinking spirits is certainly untrue. Many persons now drink at the outstills who were not seen by the public generally to drink before, and in the neighbourhood of the outstills and on the roads leading to them, many are seen more or less intoxicated where such a sight was never seen before. There is, however, no proof that these men never drank before, and on the contrary almost every customer of an outstill whom I have examined has deposed that he drank before whenever he could. I do not disbelieve the witnesses who say that they see men lying beastly

drunk on the road, and that they never saw such a sight before, but I am of opinion that the same men formerly got quite as drunk on their own premises or at the outstills of the adjoining districts, though perhaps not so often. I believe that the consumption of spirits has increased, and that there is more visible intoxication, but it is by no means proved that there has been any increase in intemperance generally, or in crime connected with intemperance. The fact that there has been more drinking in public has led to people being annoyed by tipsy men, but I disbelieve the general allegations which have been made as to intentional outrages upon women. One reason for an increase in the numbers of those who drink in public is the fact that the greater part of the liquor formerly consumed was smuggled, and therefore drunk in secret, and another reason is that most of the liquor formerly sold at the shops appears to have been taken away, and not drunk on the spot. Although many who previously drank unseen by the public now frequent the outstills, disgusting scenes of intoxication and annoyance from tipsy men might have been obviated had the sites of outstills been judiciously selected, and not permitted in towns or market-places or on the roads leading thereto. The outstills generally occupy the sites of previous licensed shops, but the fact that liquor is now drunk on the premises to a much greater extent than before, added to the smell inseparable from the process of distillation, renders the outstill a far greater public nuisance than the shop ever was. The evils which have been caused by the cheapness of liquor and by the objectionable situations of outstills are confined to thirty-one centres in the two districts, which comprise, excluding the riparian municipalities, over three thousand towns and villages, and I doubt whether they have been felt at all except in the immediate neighbourhood of those centres. The difference between the high duty levied by Government on central distillery liquor, and that paid on outstill liquor in license fees has led to much smuggling of outstill liquor into the towns, and consequent loss to the revenue. I doubt whether practically any attempt has been made to restrict the outturn of outstill liquor by limiting the capacity of stills and fermenting jars, as I find that the capacity originally fixed in proportion to the estimated local demand was afterwards increased in proportion to the fees the *abkars* were willing to pay for their licenses, so that they have really been allowed to distil as much liquor as they liked, so long as they paid fees accordingly. I have met with very few cases in which I could suspect that an *abkar* was using a greater capacity than he was allowed, but the outturn has frequently been much larger than the fermenting capacity was intended to allow; a result which has been obtained by unduly increasing the density of the wash, and perhaps also by using wash which was not completely fermented. In connection with this there is some evidence that the liquor distilled is less wholesome than that previously distilled in central distilleries. I cannot recommend that the capacity should be so restricted as to render it impossible to meet the local demand for liquor without resort to these pernicious devices; and so long as it is fixed on the basis of a proper proportion of fluid in the wash, a larger outturn can always be obtained by increasing its density. I do not see how we can enforce any regulation as to density of wash, or as to complete fermentation, and the system of restrictions appears to me to encourage the production of unwholesome liquor. The only method of limiting consumption that I can see is to keep up the price of liquor by the levy of as high a duty as can be maintained without causing smuggling or illicit distillation. The limited time at my disposal obliges me to omit the discussion of fluctuations in revenue derived from various exciseable articles as connected with fluctuations in the consumption of country spirits, but I must briefly state that I notice that while the revenue on country spirit was rising in all the adjoining districts in which the outstill system was in force, that in Hooghly and Howrah under the central distillery system was falling.

25. **Recommendations.**—I see no reason for giving up outstills, and reverting to the system of licensed shops. To adopt such a measure in Hooghly and Howrah, while retaining outstills in all the adjoining districts, would cause the greater part of the drinking classes to resume the practice of obtaining their liquor from those districts, and would enable the licensed vendors to defraud the revenue as they did before by keeping up their stocks from the same source. The evils which have attended the introduction

of outstills may be expected to disappear if the retail price of liquor is raised, and if outstills are not allowed in public places and on public roads. I see no reason why liquor produced at outstills in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah, except perhaps the sub-division of Jahanabad, should not generally pay Government as high a duty as is levied on central distillery liquor; but as the present duty is only half, and a sudden change would probably prevent the *abkars* from making settlements, I should recommend that the process of raising the duty to what it ought eventually to be should be gradual, and should be extended over three years. I submit, however, that the question of settling the duty which liquor ought to pay cannot be considered with reference to any one district only; and although my enquiries are limited to a very small part of the province, I venture to submit that the questions raised cannot be settled without pushing the enquiries further and modifying the excise arrangements of adjoining areas. If differences in rates of duty and cost of production are abrupt, smuggling is inevitable; and to render them sufficiently gradual, to come down mile by mile and anna by anna from a high duty to a low one, operations must be extended over as wide an area as possible. Where we cannot absolutely equalise duties, we must carefully graduate the differences. Although the people of those rural parts of Hooghly and Howrah in which I have been making enquiries can afford to pay as much for their liquor as the town population, there are tracts, not very far away, in which this is not the case, and in which the people drink large quantities of weak liquor, and will undoubtedly resort to illicit distillation if they are called on to pay as high a duty in proportion to the alcoholic strength of the liquor as is paid by the wealthier population of such a district as Hooghly. Such a tract appears to exist in the west of the district of Burdwan, where the people drink *mahawa* liquor, cheap and weak, and it is impossible to prevent smuggling where a high rate of duty is maintained in immediate proximity to a tract in which liquor is less heavily taxed. Absolute equalisation of duty being impossible, the scale must be gradually lowered from the central distillery areas to those in which a low duty is necessary. If a sharp line is defined between two areas, one of high and the other of low duty, there must be smuggling, as there has been and is in Hooghly, and I cannot find that the neutral zone of six miles has checked it in the least. Before April 1887 outstill liquor from other districts was brought in; since April the outstill liquor of the rural tracts has been smuggled into the towns, and this must be so long as a great difference in the rate of duty is maintained. I will illustrate what I shall propose by showing how I should apply it in a certain area. In the town of Howrah liquor pays five rupees duty on the gallon of London-proof spirit, and proportionate duty on weaker spirit. At Jhaporda, seven miles off, the duty (levied in the shape of license fee) amounts to somewhat less than Rs. 2-4 the gallon (London proof). Eight miles further west liquor at Jogotbollobhpoor outstill is paying the same duty, and eight miles west of Jogotbollobhpoor is the frontier of the Jahanabad sub-division, the intermediate area being supplied with liquor by the outstills of Krishtonogor on the north and Majoo on the south, at both of which the duty is slightly lower. For the present I will accept Mr. Toynbee's opinion that Rs. 2-8 is as high a duty as the Jahanabad sub-division can pay, though I think it probable that the eastern part of it is more wealthy than the west, and that a graduated scale of duty would be suitable to it. The people of Jhaporda and Jogotbollobhpoor could afford to pay quite as high a duty as the citizens of Howrah; but if they pay a duty of Rs. 5, the liquor paying only Rs. 2-8 would be smuggled in from the westward. I would therefore propose a graduated scale of duty—Howrah paying, as now, Rs. 5, Jhaporda Rs. 4-6, Jogotbollobhpoor Rs. 3-12, Krishtonogor and Majoo Rs. 3-2, and the Jahanabad sub-division Rs. 2-8. Such a graduated scale as this would be preferable to the sharp difference which now exists between the duty in Howrah and that in Jhaporda, seven miles away, but the differences would still be greater than is desirable; and if it is found impossible to levy a higher duty than Rs. 2-8 in Jahanabad, it must be considered whether the gain to the revenue by reducing the differences, and so discouraging smuggling, would not be sufficient to justify a reduction of the rate of duty levied in Howrah. I have in a previous section* pointed out that in the north of Hooghly there is a line of country extending to the central

* Page 29.

distillery area of Burdwan without any cheap-liquor area intervening, and that for that tract duty need only be graduated to the northward and towards the south-west. I think that we should endeavour to equalise the rate of duty paid in license-fees on outstill liquor with that paid on central distillery liquor as much as possible, with a graduated scale of duty extending from central distillery areas to those in which a low duty is necessary. Very careful inquiry should be made as to the highest duty which can safely be levied in what I may call the cheap-liquor tracts; and if the scale of duties between them and the central distillery areas cannot be graduated with such slight differences as to discourage smuggling, I should be inclined to reduce the duty levied in the latter areas. I venture to suggest that as careful inquiry should be made in the adjoining districts as I have now been making in Hooghly and Howrah, and that the graduation of duties should be taken up for much larger areas than single districts only. I believe that there is considerable sacrifice of revenue in the maintenance of greatly-differing scales of duty in adjacent tracts, especially with such weak detective establishments as we have at our disposal. When I speak of levying duty on outstill liquor I must be understood to refer to the calculations based on average sales, so far as they can be ascertained, for fixing the upset prices at which the monthly licenses of outstills are to be put up to auction. In connection with upset prices calculated on graduated scales of duty, I recommend a system of minimum retail prices, graduated in proportion. I have discussed this point in section 17. The calculation of duty can only be accurate in proportion to our knowledge of the quantity and strength of the liquor sold, and I believe that concealment by the *abkars* of the true amount of their sales can only be detected by carefully watching their retail prices. A fall in retail prices will always indicate that the duty is not sufficiently high. My recommendations with reference to prohibiting the opening of outstills in public places and by the sides of public roads have been fully explained in section 14. I find that the detective and preventive establishments now at our disposal are quite inadequate to deal with smuggling as it is now carried on; and though I hope by approximate equalisation of duty to discourage smuggling to a great extent, I fear that there will still be more than our present establishments can deal with. I therefore recommend considerable increase to them, and I submit for consideration whether, instead of a separate establishment, an excise department paid from excise revenue should not be added to the district police. I think that the District Superintendent with his regular staff would supervise the men and check malpractices more efficiently than a Deputy Collector would. The regular police are not immaculate, but the manner in which the force is administered has rendered them far more trustworthy than the excise daroghas and their peons. I summarise my recommendations as follows:—

1. That the price of outstill liquor should be raised by prescribing minimum prices, and by equalising the incidence of duty with that levied on central distillery liquor, as far as possible, and by carefully graduating differences where they cannot be altogether removed.
2. That no outstill should be allowed within a certain distance of any market-place or road leading thereto.
3. That where *abkars* are unable to obtain unobjectionable sites, Government should provide them, taking up land for the purpose.
4. That detective and preventive establishments should be increased, and that the question be carefully considered whether they should not be administered by the Police Department, still being paid from the excise revenue.
5. That attention should be drawn to the payment of adequate rewards, recourse being had to section 78 of Act VII (B.C.) of 1878 whenever necessary.

E. V. WESTMACOTT.

APPENDIX.

DIARY OF PROCEEDINGS, WITH NOTES OF EVIDENCE.

2nd January 1888, JHAPORDA.

Having taken charge of my duties on the 21st December 1887, I was occupied for some days in correspondence, in reading various papers in connection with my work, and in making preliminary arrangements. On the 2nd January 1888, I rode to Domjor thanna, about ten miles west of Howrah, and encamped within two hundred yards of the outstill at Jhaporda, one of those to which the Indian Association has especially drawn attention. I was met by Baboo Rasik Lal Ghose, a delegate of the Indian Association, and by Baboo Ganendronath Pal, Deputy Collector of Excise in the Districts of Hooghly and Howrah, who gave me the following information with reference to the outstill.

The local demand for liquor at Jhaporda was originally estimated to be 120 gallons of London proof spirit in the month, and on the basis of Rs. 2 per gallon duty, the upset price of the monthly license fee was fixed at Rs. 240. On the estimate of an outturn of three gallons of London-proof spirit from one maund of material, the outstill was to be restricted to the fermentation of 40 maunds of molasses in the month, and calculating eight days for fermentation in the hot season and twelve in the cold, was allowed 24 jars from the 15th March to the 15th October and 36 from the 15th October to the 15th March, each jar being of two maunds, or twenty gallons, fluid capacity. It was intended that the amount of material used should be one-fourth of the fluid capacity of the jar, so that a twenty-gallon jar should take twenty seers of molasses, and ninety distillations in the month would allow 45 maunds of molasses with an outturn of 135 gallons of London-proof spirit. This was considered sufficiently near the estimated demand of 120 gallons. At the auction, however, the bids went up to Rs. 425, and therefore the allowance was increased by increasing the size of the jars from twenty to thirty gallons, allowing for thirty seers of molasses for each distillation, $67\frac{1}{2}$ maunds in the month, and an outturn of $202\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of liquor. A still was allowed of 50 gallons fluid capacity, which might take $33\frac{1}{3}$ gallons of fermented wash, a still being always worked one third empty. There is a condition in the license that there should be no distillation at night. As distillation only takes about three hours, there might easily be four distillations in the day, which should be checked by restricting the capacity of the fermenting jars. The fact that fermentation takes less than eight days in the hot weather, and that each jar of wash contains 40 seers of molasses instead of 30, accounts for the fermentation every month of considerably more than $67\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. The liquor has been tested to be of two qualities,—one 20° below proof and the other from 35° to 40°. Taking an average of Rs. 2-4 per maund as the price of molasses, and a maund of fire-wood to each maund of molasses, the cost of working off $67\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of goor in the month appears to be as follows:—

	Rs.	A.
Molasses	151	14
Wood	16	8
Manufacturing servants	16	0
Selling servants	8	0
Rent	7	0
Depreciation of buildings	10	0
Contingencies	5	10
	215	0
License fee ...	425	0
	640	0

This gives cost of production, including duty, at the rate of Rs. 3-2-6 per gallon London-proof, or Re. 1-0-11 exclusive of duty; but if the liquor produced is 25° below proof, the cost per gallon will be so much less. This account of

2nd January, 1888, JHAPORDA.

expense is probably much exaggerated. The Deputy Collector showed that this outstill had taken the place of shops which in 1886-87 paid duty on 338 gallons of London-proof spirit, but a discussion on this subject will be found in another part of my report.*

Examination of Shonaton Shaha, distiller.—I am shareholder with Jogodishwar Shaha, licensee of the outstill. I remain here in charge of the business. I sell at six and eight annas the bottle, not less. The price of liquor before was one rupee. The liquor is of the same strength.

From the outstill books I took the following figures:—

			Molasses used.	Outturn of spirits.	
			Mds.	Gals.	Bottles.
April	1887	...	92	190	3
May	„	...	93	268	5
June	„	...	89	264	2
July	„	...	76	274	2
August	„	...	84	211	3
September	„	...	93	232	1
October	„	...	87	221	1
November	„	...	73	218	5
December	„	...	71	259	2
	Total	...	758	2,141	0

Examination of Anonto Ram Ghose.—I live in Khashmara, a mile from here. I wrote a letter to the Indian Association on the subject of drunkenness. I know from enquiry and local investigation that drunkenness has increased. I came at the request of the Indian Association to make enquiry. I can state nothing from my own observation. I know that the outstill system has affected my own village. Some peasants came to Jhaporda bazar and got drunk. I do not remember their names. They generally come at ten o'clock in the morning and return at night. I cannot tell their names. They are Bagdees, Sodgops, Koiborttos. Some Brahmans also; I do not remember their names either. I cannot point out any family reduced to starvation by drunkenness. I cannot name any gentleman who lay insensible on the public road. I do not know whose house has been trespassed into. I have seen drivers of hackney carriages drunk often in the day time. I never saw one drunk before last *Boisakh*. I cannot give an instance of assault or affray or theft due to drunkenness. The boy who got drunk was not Rakhal Chondro Chatterjee, but Nundo Lal Banerjee, son of Bhogwan Chondro Banerjee. I have come to know this afterwards. I have heard that the price of liquor is six or three or four annas per bottle. Beharee Lal Mookerjee, Bhoothnath Mookerjee, and Jogeshwar Dutt gave me information. I questioned other persons, but did not ask their names. Beharee Lal Mookerjee told me about gentlemen lying drunk on the road. I cannot give the names of any others who gave me information.

Examination of Beharee Lal Mookerjee, Schoolmaster.—I live in Jhaporda. I know that the families of some Doolee sardars have wanted food on account of drinking, two or three of them. I do not know their names, but can point out their houses. I do not know whether they drank liquor before last *Boisakh*. Piyaree Lal Goopto lay insensible on the road five or six times within the last two or three months. I have seen him myself. I never saw him drunk till this year, nor heard him spoken of as a drunkard. His family get nothing to eat. His *mama* used to feed them. Does not now. Piyaree used to give a few pice himself. His *mama* has now separated from him because he is a drunkard. He was not a drunkard before. Mochiram Panjal and Gopal Mul have had drunkards trespass into their premises. I have had theft in my house. Do not know whether the thief was drunk. I know of no drunken thief being caught. There was a theft of *dhan* last night. Prem Chand Banerjee's house was robbed ten or fifteen days ago. Oomesh Chondro Goopto was robbed in *Agrahayon*, Kalee Krishna Mookerjee in *Kartick*, Shoshee Bhooshan Mookerjee in *Agrahayan*, Keder Nath Banerjee two or three months ago. They were petty thefts of cloth, rice, pots, &c. Such thefts did not occur before. Gopal Chondro, a boy of the pathshala, drinks now. I have seen him drunk in a shop, not lying on the road. His father is Annoda Prosad Banerjee of Khatora who lives three *beeghas* from my house. Gopal Chondro never drank before. Some say liquor is sold at six, some at eight annas the bottle. Before the outstill was opened liquor used to sell for a rupee. I have heard so, I do not know it myself. I have heard liquor has become cheap. A Kayasth I saw drunk told me liquor now was much stronger than it used to be. His name is Soorendro Nath Roy. He works in the High Court. I am schoolmaster of Jhaporda and on the punchayet. Where one hundred drink now, it used to be from ten to twenty only. The others have begun to drink within eight or nine months. I have never heard of liquor coming here by way of Sankrail.

Examination of Bhola Nath Mookerjee, Secretary to the School.—Three months ago I saw Khetronath Chatterjee of Khatora come to the bazar with Rs. 24, two months' pay. He is

* *See* page 25.

employed in a cooly office. He got drunk at the outstill shop and lay drunk in the bazar. He was robbed of his money, and came to me about it. I have known him a long time. He lives less than a mile from me. I never heard of his drinking before. He always bore a good character. I live in Calcutta. I have not seen him since. I have heard, but not seen, of school boys drinking. There is a rumour of it. I often see drunkards lying in the road and in the ditch at night. (Gives an instance with anecdote.) I can swear to a great increase in petty thefts. I know Piyaree Lal Goopto. He is a great drunkard. Gives all his earnings to the distillery man, and never takes anything back. He has been a drunkard for a long time, but his drunkenness has increased since the outstill was opened. I know Annoda's son Gopal. He is now a regular drunkard. Did not drink before. Is only 13 or 12 years old. It is rumoured that Bhogwan Chondro Banerjee's son drinks now. Bhogwan is himself a great drunkard. I have heard of increase of drunkenness and mischief among the *sardars*. I have heard that a hackney carriage driver was fined five rupees, for assaulting a woman in his carriage when he was drunk, in Mohendro Baboo's Court. *2nd January, 1888, JHAPORDA.*

Examination of Jogeshwar Dutt.—I live at Jhaporda. I have a shop here for opium and spices. People drink now who were not known to drink before. I cannot give any names, not one. Women do not drink. Prostitutes always drank, but I hear they drink more, at home, and not in the bazar. Drunken women are not seen in the bazar. I have not heard of low caste people's women drinking. Doolee sardars used to drink. They now drink more. I know of no drunken people going into people's *barees*. Petty thefts are more common. I know Bhogwan Chondro Banerjee. He always drank, but now drinks more. I have once seen him lying drunk. I have heard that his son drinks. Have not seen it; never heard it till lately. He is eight or ten years old. I know nothing of Annoda's son Gopal drinking. I know Piyaree Goopta Boidyo. He always drank. Drinks more now. Liquor is cheaper now, and that is why people drink more. A bottle used to cost Re. 1-4 or Re. 1-2. Now costs eight annas. There is more drunkenness visible now. Whether the same people drank to a less degree before I cannot say. I know of no other respectable persons drinking, except Bhogwan. I have heard of none falling drunk on the road. I know Khetronath Chatterjee; never saw him drunk. I hear that he takes *ganja*, I never heard of his falling down drunk and being robbed. I have heard two or three school boys, not more, drink. I have not heard of liquor coming in by way of Sankrail, nor of illicit distillation.

Examination of Bhooth Nath Mookerjee.—I live in South Jhaporda, am clerk in the Telegraph Accounts Office. In Bhadro or Ashin last I saw two Koiborttos dead drunk in the bazar. We threw forty or fifty *kulshees* of water over them before they came to. I do not know their names. They live at Bonnaopara. I know Piyaree, he is an appalling drunkard (*bhayanak matal*). Drinks all he gets. Bhogwan and his son drink, father and son (*bap beta*). Bhogwan and Piyaree always drank. Now drink more. Bhogwan's son drinks. I do not know whether *taree* drinkers now drink outstill liquor, I have not heard of any women, except prostitutes, drinking. Prostitutes always drank. I have not seen any of them drunk in the bazar. Thefts have become more common. There is a theft every three or four days. A carriage driver was convicted of assaulting a female. He was drunk, and two bottles of liquor were found in his carriage. Outstill liquor is said to be sold at two or three bottles the rupee. Liquor used to be sold at Re. 1 a bottle. I can say nothing about outstill liquor being smuggled up here before the outstill was started. I never heard of it. One Beharee Mal, son of Gopal Chunder Mal, a Koibortto, a month or two ago was reprimanded by me for using filthy language to women and girls. He was drunk. It happened about five times. His age is fourteen or fifteen. It was only verbal outrage he was guilty of. He was standing naked in the jungle, and when women came to the ghat he exposed himself. I never knew of his drinking formerly. In Kartik last year he stole a lantern and an oil-burner. I do not know whether he drank then. Twenty or twenty-five days ago one Horish Chatterjee, a Brahman, of Makorda, forty years of age, fell down drunk in a stable. I never saw him drunk before. People drink more now than they used to. People say liquor is stronger now than it used to be. I have heard of a boy named Nondo drinking. I do not know his name. He lives in North Jhaporda. There is more quarrelling and abuse in the bazar than there used to be. It did not occur before.

On the 3rd January I rode from Domjor to Joynogor, about eight miles, questioning numbers of respectable people on my way in Bonnaopara, Begree, Kholora, Dhoolagor, Solohatee, and Chondipoor. There seems a general idea that the cheapness of liquor has increased drinking among those who drink, but I could not ascertain that it had caused sober people to take to drink. The average price of liquor now seems to be eight annas per bottle, sometimes six, and it used to be one rupee. Some said twelve or fourteen annas, but one rupee was the usual price mentioned. One man, who was very emphatic as to the increase of drunkenness, said Re. 1-2 and Re. 1-4, but he turned out to be an ex-peon of the Mohiyaree distillery, who was very anxious for its re-establishment and his own re-employment. He took me a mile out of my way to visit a *taree* shop, the keeper of which has kept it for ten years. I expected valuable information from this man, as to fluctuation in the consumption of *taree*, but besides being very stupid, he was too anxious to get his monthly fee reduced to allow of my attaching much value to what *3rd January, BEGREE, &c.*

3rd January 1888,

DHOOLAGOR.

he said respecting decreased sales of *taree*. The villagers generally (with few exceptions) said that people went away to the outstill to drink, and that there was no increase in the visible signs of drunkenness in the villages. Petty thefts are said to have increased in number, but the villagers generally seem to have no grudge against the outstills, although they think that it would be a good thing if the price of liquor were doubled. I could learn nothing about previous smuggling of outstill liquor or illicit distillation. No women drink except prostitutes, and they are not seen drunk in public. I heard nothing but very vague rumours about boys drinking. There is decidedly no scandalous increase of drunkenness in these villages. The people speak of drinking as confined to low people, saying that they do not know what the higher classes (*bhala lok*) do inside their *barees*.

JOYNOGOR.

I was met at Joynogor by the Deputy Collector and by the delegate of the Indian Association. The still is not in a bazar, but is at the point where the road from Bowreah to Domjor crosses a navigable *khal*, and where a bridge will soon be built, making the road, on which there is already a good deal of traffic, one of considerable importance. The Deputy Collector informed me that the local demand of the neighbourhood was estimated to be 80 gallons of London-proof spirit, and that the man is allowed 16 and 24 jars according to the season. I omitted to take full notes as to the capacity. There were 24 jars, but the still was broken. The Deputy Collector states that the shops of which the outstill has taken the place paid duty on 268 gallons of London-proof spirit in 1886-87. He says that he has tested the liquor here twice this year, and found one quality from 20° to 22° and the other from 35° to 40° below proof. The distillers' books show his sales to have been as follow :—

1887.	Gallons.	Bottles.
April	176	3
May	137	2
June	159	0
July	122	5
August	103	4
September	76	0
October	99	2
November	103	1
December	97	4
Total ...	1,075	3

He says that he puts into each jar—

	Seers,
Molasses	15
Water	30
Spent wash	10
Total ...	55 seers, or $13\frac{3}{4}$ gallons.

and that the contents of one jar are used for each distillation. That fermentation now takes from ten to twelve days. That from what he puts into the still he gets eight or ten bottles. That he distils once, twice, or three times a day. That he sells his liquor at four, five, seven, and eight annas the bottle.

Examination of Kedarnath Sarkar.—I am a Kayasth, and live at Kendooa, a quarter of a mile from here. I live at home. Liquor is now said to sell for from four to eight annas the bottle, and formerly to have cost Re. 1 or Re. 1-2. People drink more since liquor has become cheap. Those who never drank before have begun to do so, both cultivators and the higher classes. Gobordhon Patak, who is a *Jatrodol*, and has land, drinks now. I never heard of his drinking before. I have seen him drunk two or three times. Gobindo Bose, a *gomashta*, drinks now. I never saw him drunk before. I have seen him drunk four or five times. Horee Narayon Sardar, a *gomashta*, has been drunk three or four times. I never heard of his being so before. Shyama Choron Banerjee, *gomashta*, aged about twenty, has taken to drink. I have seen him drunk two or three times. There are many similar cases in which I could give the names. Cultivators also drink who did not drink before. Those of the higher classes who have taken to drink are from eighteen to twenty-five years old. Women do not drink. There are no prostitutes here. I have not seen that little boys drink. Some do in cultivators' families. Madhob Sonyashee Koibortto, fifteen or sixteen years old, Shyam and Ram, of ten and eleven, drink. They are sons of Poromeshwar Doolee, who is a drunkard (a bystander, named Bholonath Banerjee, says that Poromeshwar did not drink before).

3rd January 1888, JOYNOGOR.

Examination of Bholonath Banerjee.—I am on the punchayet, and live here in my *baree*. Men lie drunk on the roads, exposing their persons, and go into people's *barees*. I can give no instance of trespass into a *baree*. Men who have fallen on the road are Khetro Mookerjee, aged sixteen or seventeen, a *jatrodol*, who was not a drunkard before, and Koojeram Koonkree, aged fourteen or fifteen, a day-labourer. I have seen him lying on the road. Last night he was naked on the road, tumbling about and singing, and a Rakhal Keyora, aged eighteen or nineteen, who was with him, took him away. Jhoroo Mana, aged seventeen or eighteen, a cooly, has been drunk on the road three times. I have seen him myself. He was never drunk before the outstill was opened. Orjon Bashar Pod, aged fourteen or fifteen, a cooly, I have seen drunk on the road two or three times. I have seen many in the same state. I never saw such a thing before this year.

I now put the question, who drank the average quantity of 85 bottles a month, which was admittedly sold in this neighbourhood in previous years, and a general conversation ensued, among a dozen or more respectable looking elderly men, the gist of which was that the liquor was before consumed by persons of the better classes in their *barees*, and that there was not so much visible drunkenness as now. It was admitted that outstill liquor probably came up the *khal* in boats. It was generally agreed that drunkards were not seen about nearly so much before. Gopal Chondro Sarkar, aged 44, talookdar and gomastha, Tara Chand Panre, aged 62, (pays Rs. 20 income tax), Boikonta Nath Chakondi, Brahman, aged 50, (has land and is a priest), were the principal talkers. I took them into the out-still and explained to them the restriction of vats. A boy was then produced who was said to be a drunkard.

Examination of Bisho Nath Das, aged 10 *or* 11, *son of Shyama Choron Das, Koibortto, Doctor.*—I drank once. I got half a bottle from the outstill for four annas. Two other boys were with me—Potit and Horee. I stole the money from my father, and my father slapped me for it.

The conversation being resumed, my informants said that petty thefts of fruit and garden produce have increased, and that many children drink. I suggested increasing the monthly fee of the outstills. One man said that would only make liquor cheaper, as they would have to sell more. When I explained the restrictions, they thought they must be evaded by illicit fermenting elsewhere. Certainly in the rains wash or liquor could be brought to the outstill in boats at night. They also thought that the still could be worked at night. I pointed out that unless the neighbours connived this was impossible. All asked for a return to the old system. I returned on the evening of the 3rd January to Domjor, and next morning resumed my enquiries at Jhaporda.

4th January, JHAPORDA.

Examination of Rasik Lal Bose, Sub-Inspector of Police, Domjor.—I came here as Sub-Inspector at the end of 1885, went to Chonditala in April 1887, and came back here in November 1887. I was at Bagnan before I came here for a year. I was at Sankrail in 1875-76. I was at Bally before Bagnan, and Amta before that. I was away from here investigating a dacoity in January and February 1887. Liquor used to be sold here at Re. 1 and Re. 1-2 per bottle. The price is now six and eight annas. Liquor is now said to be bad, to have a bad smell. I have not heard of drugs being mixed with it. The low classes now drink more than they did. Many more of them are drunk in public than there used to be. I have seen them pulling one another about and making a noise in the road. I have not seen more than one lying on the road. Before the outstill was opened I never saw such things. I never caught outstill liquor smuggled here, but when I was at Sankrail I caught seven cases of liquor brought into the *khal* in boats from Budge-Budge and Katakhalee. I suspect that much outstill liquor was smuggled here. The Soonrees of Sankrail, and especially Sookmoy Shaha, the licensed vendor, and his brother, smuggled regularly. I know nothing of liquor going out of the distillery duty-free—never heard of it. I do not know of people of the better classes drinking now who did not drink before. Those who drank before drink more now. I don't hear of women other than prostitutes drinking. Prostitutes drink at home, and are not seen drunk outside. I do not believe much about little boys drinking, but the low classes generally drink. The constables are none of them drunkards. I hear that one Bosonto Dutta, who resigned in 1887, drank. He was not here with me. Good wages are earned by the people here by going to Calcutta and Howrah, but this has been the case for many years past, and wages have not improved lately. There is no known increase in drinking among the people who take liquor away to their houses. I know nothing of outstill liquor being taken from here to Howrah. I fancy *taree* drinkers have taken to outstill liquor. *Taree* liquor is sold by the *kulshee*. I do not know the price. Neither rum nor imported liquors were ever drunk here much. I never heard of illicit distillation. People do not have their own materials distilled at the outstill. I do not think liquor is sold after hours. I know of no sales for anything but money. I know of no families distressed for food on account of money spent in drink. It is probable that petty thefts of fruit, etc., have increased, but no tidings come to the thanna.

4th January 1888, JHAPORDA.

Examination of Piyaree Lal Kobiraj.—I work as a *Kobiraj*. I have drunk liquor for five or six years. Liquor is now sold here at eight and ten annas the bottle. I get drunk on half a bottle. When there was a shop the liquor cost Re. 1 and Re. 1-4. I drank less before. I got less drunk before because the stuff was good. It makes me ill now. It makes my head heavy which it did not before. It tastes more sharp in the mouth now. It smells worse. I should say there was one-fourth water before. There seems more water now and the stuff (*jinish*) is more sharp (*tez*), and produces more nausea (*hákál*). I used to get drunk two or three times a month—now four or five times. I have no income but as a *Kobiraj*. I make Rs. 15 or Rs. 16 a month. I used to live with my *mama*, but for three months past we have been separated. I am a Boidyo. There are other Boidyos here, of whom Omesh Goopto drinks. He drank before, but now drinks more. He drinks at home, and is not seen drunk. I drink sometimes at home, sometimes in the bazar. No other Boidyo drinks in the bazar. Half the people in my village drink at home or in the bazar. I cannot name a Kayasth who drinks in the bazar. Brahmans do. Bhogwan is one. He always drank but now drinks more. He is an old drunkard. If better class people drink more, it is secretly. The lower classes (*chhoto lok*) drink more and fall about the road since liquor is cheap. *Bhodro lok* do drink more. If their women drink, it is secretly. Some schoolboys drink, I hear. I have not seen it.

Examination of Narayon Doolee, Prostitute.—I have been in this bazar a long time, ten years. I drink liquor. The old liquor was sold at Re. 1 and Re. 1-4 per bottle. The new is sold at eight annas. We used to get drunk on a quarter bottle, now on half a bottle. The new liquor is not good. It makes people ill, and produces a craving for a meat diet. It makes the urine red like blood, and smells very bad. I should think it contains tobacco (*dookta tamak*). It smells like this cheroot end. This liquor makes people fall into the ditch. Mahomedans drink.

Examination of Prosonno, Prostitute.—I have lived several years in this bazar, and liquor is drunk in my house. It used to cost a rupee a bottle and now costs eight annas. If two men drink a bottle between them now, they fall drunk on the road; formerly three men would get drunk on one bottle. The present liquor is worse. It stinks and produces nausea (*hakal*). It smells of tobacco, makes the head heavy, and makes one more thirsty. All my visitors do not drink. I know of none who drink now and did not drink before. My visitors are *bhodro lok*. People get more drunk now-a-days than they used to.

Mohendro Lal Dutt, Mooktyar and member of the District Board, resident of Khatra, came to me and told me that there were three thefts last night, that a man went out of doors for a certain purpose, and that a thief slipped in and carried off utensils from the house. I went to the outstill and noted certain objections to the site. It is on an important road, in the middle of a bazar, where there is a daily market, saturating the atmosphere with the smell of liquor. Huts closely adjoin it in which fermentation could be carried on, and a *khal* from the river Hooghly comes up to the back door by which any amount of fermented wash might be brought in at night. I tested four samples of liquor by Sikes' hydrometer, taking the temperature and calculating accordingly. I found liquor in a cask into which the day's liquor had been mixed to be 17·6 below proof, and a bottle, said by the shop-keeper to be for sale at eight annas, 18·2. A second cask gave 22·9, and liquor in bottle priced at six annas 26·4. There was besides a gallon of to-day's weak liquor, 72° below proof, which he said would be put back into the still. He says he has distilled to-day three times before 3 P.M., and has got 11 gallons. He says he puts no tobacco or any such thing into his liquor, and I can smell none. He admits selling sometimes on credit. He appears to have evaded the intended restriction of his fermenting jars by using 40 seers of molasses instead of 30 in every 30 gallons of wash, which would give him 90 maunds of molasses in the month, and in the months of April, June, and September, when he used over 90 maunds in the month, fermentation probably took less than eight days. I visited the *taree* shop, the keeper of which said that he used to receive Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 in a month, but now receives only from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35. He showed me his measures, one containing about a quart, and the other about a pint. One has eight pice stamped on it, and the other four, and he says he used to sell *taree* at those prices, but has now reduced his prices by half.

Examination of Odhor Nath Bhatacharjee, a Brahman, a respectable elderly man.—I am a native doctor. I have lived here 22 years. I do not go away to Howrah or Calcutta. Since the outstill was opened I see daily ten or a dozen people tumbling about the road at all times of the day. Yesterday I saw three or four on the road. Rosik and Oottom of Begree were two of them. It was 11-30 or 12 in the day People were throwing water over them. It was near the Patshala on the Begree road, half a mile off. I have not heard of drunkards going to people's houses. I hear the liquor now is bad, producing pain in the head and belly, and burning urine. Liquor used to cost Re. 1-2 and Re. 1-4 the bottle. The outstill at first sold liquor at five annas, but has raised the price to six and eight annas. Those who before

drank secretly now drink openly, both *bhodro lok* and *choto lok*. The latter have lost all respect for what people say to them. Thefts have increased: thefts of fruit and vegetables, petty thefts; I am not speaking of serious thefts. I hear that two or three months ago three or four people went and fell down in Ram Koomar Ghose's *baree*. The people know who they were. I hear they went to call a woman out, and knocked at the door. Women do not drink in respectable people's families, but women of the Keyora, Haree, and Doolee castes drink. I have seen them in their *barees*, not on the roads. I have heard of two school-boys lying drunk on the road—Digambar Chatterjee's son and Tara Chand Ghoshal's son. I have not seen it; their ages are 12 or 13 and 10 or 11. They go to the English school. Liquor was drunk before, but it was quietly. There is now a lot of noise, especially when people go home at night after being drunk all day. There are Kayasths, Brahmans, and Boidyos among them, but most of them are Mahomedans, Keyoras, &c. I saw Khetro Nath Chatterjee drunk on the road once. He was robbed of two months' pay. I don't know that he drank before. *4th January 1888, JHAPORDA.*

Examination of Bejoy Kishor Roy.—I have had a *monihar* shop in the bazar here for the last four or five years. I used to drink, but gave it up. because I and a friend used to quarrel. I have tasted the outstill liquor here once. I drank half a bottle and got drunk, and fell on the road. That is when the quarrel was. I gave ten annas for a bottle. I used to drink the old liquor at Re. 1-2 per bottle. It was better than it is now; the present liquor burns the throat and has a frightful smell, a stink to make one sick. No smell of tobacco. It makes one's urine get red and the head heavy. The old liquor did not produce those effects. One's thirst is greater now. I hear that people who taste it once do not touch it again. *Choto lok* drink more, but not *bhodro lok*. *Choto lok* sell their fish, and then get drunk for four or six annas. *Bhodro lok* drink less. *Choto lok* fall on the road daily, and make a row, abusing one another. It never used to be so. I hear of petty thefts becoming frequent. A man can get drunk now on half a bottle, and used to on three-eighths of a bottle. The effect now is immediate.

Examination of Amrito Lal Modok, Moira, a shop-keeper in the bazar.—I have been here from twenty to twenty-five years. I never drink liquor. I never did. Every two or three days I see half a dozen people drunk on the road. I never saw such a thing before the outstill was opened. I never saw a woman drunk, nor a boy of 10 or 12. I have seen boys of from 18 to 20 drunk. I have seen fifteen people in a month lying drunk. I speak of *choto lok*. I see a few Kayasths, Brahmans, and Boidyos drunk, not many.

Examination of Aseerooddeen, cloth seller.—I have lived in this bazar for four years. I never drank. I have seen a Mahomedan drunk in my shop who was never drunk before. I have seen many people tipsy on the road, low caste people. The higher classes drink cautiously. I never noticed drunken people on the road before the outstill was opened. It is now a daily sight.

On the 5th January 1888, I rode *viâ* Baloohatee, &c., to Chonditala, visiting the *taree* shop at Bhashkoor on the way. It pays Rs. 13 per month. The man complained of his sales falling off in consequence of the introduction of outstill liquor. He said that he used to get from Rs. 20 to Rs. 15 per month, but that now he does not make his fee. He did not, however, speak at all frankly. I spoke to a group of people at Baloohatee, and they said liquor costs now from eight to ten annas the bottle, and used to cost a rupee, and that there is more drinking, principally among the higher classes, now than there used to be, but that no persons had newly taken to drink, and that no drunkards are seen about. On the way from Baloohatee to Chonditala, I spoke to three or four groups, wherever I saw middle aged or elderly men about. They said that there had been great increase of drunkenness, tipsy men going home at night from Chonditala making a noise, and that women and children were afraid to go out. I asked whether there had been any attempts to outrage women, but only heard vaguely of one case. Did not hear of much theft, but of much mischief to gardens, &c., some pineapples which a woman was carrying being taken from her, of vegetables on carts being thrown about, and the like. I only heard of one drunkard falling on the road. I was told that these tipsy people were of the higher as well as of the lower classes, but principally of the latter. The villages on my route are for the most part inhabited by Koiborttos, who are peaceable people (*thunda lok*) and do not drink, but wherever there are low caste people they drink. All spoke of Baloohatee as a village full of drunkards. Arriving at Chonditala, I found the outstill in the bazar, and on the old Benares road, which is much frequented. I think the site objectionable. I first questioned the local *darogha*, with the following result:— *5th January, BHASKOOR, BALOOHATEE, &c.* *CHONDITALA.*

Examination of Mohesh Kumar Banerjee, Sub-Inspector of Police.—I came from Domjor in November, having been there six months. I was previously here in Chonditala for three months. I have seen people lying drunk on the roads, but not more than when there was a Soonree's shop. I speak of Domjor and Chonditala. People of the higher classes take liquor

5th January 1888, CHONDITALA.

into their houses to drink, but low caste people are seen drunk on the roads. The number of drunkards has increased. Boys of thirteen and fourteen who never drank before have taken to drink. I have heard of no increase in thefts, petty or serious, either reported or not reported. The outstill has caused more drinking and more drunkenness. Less *taree* is drunk. I have heard of no attempt to outrage women, but women have been frightened. I have heard of no drunkards trespassing into houses. I have not heard of any families of drunkards being in distress for food, except that the Baboos say so. People who drink say the liquor now is better. I do not drink myself.

I found 36 fermenting jars at the outstill, of which I measured one of the largest to contain 33 gallons; some may be three or four gallons smaller. There are numbers of jars about, and the premises are crowded and large, so that any amount of fermentation is possible. The Deputy Collector informed me that the monthly fee is Rs. 400, and that only 30 seers of molasses should be put into each jar, but the distiller actually uses 40 seers. He should be restricted to 90 maunds of molasses in the month. His books show—

		Molasses used.	Outturn.	
		Mds.	Gals.	Bots.
April	1887 ...	89	301	2
May	„	108	350	3
June	„	91	293	5
July	„	94	304	3
August	„	93	308	5
September	„	91	311	4
October	„	89	309	4
November	„	83	314	1
December	„	63	242	5
	TOTAL ...	801	2,737	2

The fermentation probably takes less than eight days in the hot weather, and he may perhaps not always wait till it is complete. The distiller said that he got a better outturn in the cold season. The Deputy Collector considers that this outstill has taken the place of shops which in 1886-87 took 1,199¾ gallons of liquor from the distillery. This is discussed elsewhere.* I found the still to contain exactly 50 gallons. I tested the liquor as follows, the prices being those stated by the distiller—

No.	Price.		Strength.
1.	10 annas	... in cask	... 18·6 below proof.
2.	10 „	... do.	... 20· „
3.	10 „	... in bottle	... 17·6 „
4.	8 „	... in cask	... 24·8 „
5.	8 „	... do.	... 25·5 „
6.	8 „	... in bottle	... 24·4 „

Some of the hot liquor from the receiver I tested to be only 6·5 below proof.

Examination of Rakhal Chondro Shaha, the distiller.—I use one maund *goor* for each distillation, date sugar, not cane sugar. One *seer* hard *goor*, and the rest treacle, nothing else. I put one maund of *goor* in each jar, two maunds water including ten seers of wash, total 3 maunds. I make liquor of two kinds, and sell it at eight and ten annas per bottle. I never sell at less than eight annas. Three quarters of the liquor is taken away, and a quarter drunk at the outstill. This liquor is not sold in any other shop.

Examination of Raj Krishna Chuckerbutty, medical practitioner. I live at Jonai. I stay at home. There used to be a liquor shop at Jonai, which is about three miles from here. The price was Re. 1-4 per bottle. I hear liquor is now sold at two or three bottles the rupee. I drink sometimes. I never use country liquor. I never tasted the outstill liquor. People say the liquor is better now. More people of the lower classes drink now than used to. Middle class people do not drink more than they used to. The lower classes drink more, even boys. Boys did drink before. I cannot say whether they drink more now. I see more tipsy people about than I used to belonging to the lower classes. I see even women tipsy out on the road. I do not know whether they are prostitutes or not. Petty thefts are more common than they were. I see people tipsy at a distance from the outstill, and not only here, in the bazar. Once or twice I have seen men lying drunk on the road a mile from here. I do not hear drunkards making a noise on the road at night. Twice about a month ago, five or six men went into Jonai school tipsy. None of the Jonai schoolboys drink. I do not know of any families in distress on account of drink. I know of no outrages on women.

Examination of Bhogobotee Choron De, Koibortto, aged 55.—I keep a Moira shop. I have lived here twenty or twenty-five years. Liquor used to be sold at Re. 1-2 and Re. 1-4

* *See* page 25.

when the shop was at Kaleepoor. Since the outstill was opened, liquor is sold at eight and ten annas. I have not drunk since I was young. There was a shop here some years ago. I see tipsy people about on the road now, which I did not see before. I once saw a Dhangor fall drunk on the road twenty or twenty-five days ago. I only saw one man. People make a noise in the road. Women are afraid to go on the road, because of the abusive language they hear. The people I see drunk on the road belong to both the upper and lower classes. I have heard of no trespasses into *barees* or outrages on women. Thefts have become more common.

Examination of Okhor Nath Dotto, Gonddhobonik, aged 28.—I keep a spice-shop. I drink liquor, and sometimes drink outstill liquor. The price is ten and eight annas. I before got liquor from Jonai, Chonditala, and Kaleepoor at Re. 1-2 and Re. 1-4; the former liquor was better and stronger. A man got drunk on a less quantity before. The eight-anna liquor has a bad smell. The ten-anna liquor is good. The eight-anna liquor gives a headache. All people now drink more than they used. The upper classes take liquor home to drink. I see many more people tipsy on the road now. For the first two or three months the outstill was open, I saw two or three people lying about it drunk, but now I rarely see it. Such a sight was rare when there was a shop. I have heard of no outrages on women, but tipsy men use foul language on the roads I have heard of no trespassing, nor of thefts being common. I have heard that people take away liquor for sale, and liquor is taken to Serampore.

Examination of Greesh Moira, shopkeeper, aged 35. I have had this shop for twenty or twenty-one years. The lower classes drink more and go along the road. Three times I have seen low people lying on the road. The outstill is not within sight of my shop. I do not see people lying about the outstill often. I know of no outrages on women or trespassing. There has been some slight increase in petty thefts. I have not seen little boys drunk, nor women. When there was a shop, I never saw many tipsy people about. I now see many.

Examination of Jogo Nath Banerjee of Jonai, aged 54.—I live at home on my property. I have retired from trade. I never saw such crowds of people at the Jonai liquor shop as I see now at the Chonditala outstill. I see numbers of people of the lower classes reeling drunk on the road at a distance from the outstill. I know that this outstill has taken the place of half a dozen shops, which accounts for the crowd. In my own village Brahmans and Kayasths who never drank before, now drink, but not publicly. They have lost prejudices on account of the spread of education. I hear that there are private agents in the villages for the sale of liquor. There must doubtless be some illicit *bundobust*, but I bring no charges without proof. A drunken mob once tried to enter the Jonai school in school hours. I heard they were doolee-bearers of my village. I have heard of no outrages on women. Petty theft has increased. There has been a decided increase in visible drunkenness among the lower classes. I have not heard of schoolboys drinking, nor of distress in families.

Examination of Seebodhan Banerjee of Borijhatee, aged 51, *Government pensioner.*—I think that people, who have once taken to liquor, will go on drinking whatever the price. The wife of a tenant of mine, a Kahar, frequently complains that she and the children are starving, the money being spent in drink. I have heard of another case among my tenants. The son was imprisoned for stealing cocoanuts to get liquor, and the family starved. I have not heard of other cases. These have occurred since the outstill was started. There has been a general increase in drunkenness since the outstill was opened, both among the upper and lower classes. It is due to the cheapness of liquor. I see many more tipsy people about in the villages than I ever did before. I have heard of no outrages on women, or trespassing into *barees*. Petty thefts are more common. I have heard of one case here of a schoolboy, son of Gopal Chuckerbutty, getting drunk and abusing his father. Drunkenness is not common among the schoolboys at these schools.

Examination of Nibaron Bagdinee, prostitute.—I have lived in Chonditala bazar for ten or twelve years. Liquor is sometimes drunk in my house. It now costs from eight to ten annas a bottle, and formerly from Re 1 to Re. 1-4. The quantity of liquor is so nearly the same that two people can get drunk off one bottle and three cannot. There is no difference in the results of intoxication

Examination of Kedarnath Ghose, pundit of the vernacular school.—Gopal's son once got drunk. He has not come to school since the outstill opened. I have no suspicion of my boys drinking.

Examination of Bodhinath Choudhoree, aged 52.—I live on my property at Borijhatee. My tenants, Doolees and Keyoras, have taken to drink since the outstill was opened, and cannot afford it. Their families suffer. I did not know of their drinking before the outstill was opened. Women have come to me complaining of want of food on account of drink. I know of three such cases, Kedar Doolee's wife, Moocheeram Doolee's, and Koilash Keyora's mother. I never knew of such a case before. The closing of eight shops and the distance from which people have to get liquor, does not counterbalance the cheapness of liquor. Young lads have taken to drink. I have not heard of schoolboys drinking, nor of outrages on women, nor trespassing Petty thefts of fruit and vegetables have increased, and doors have been broken open and houses robbed. Kangali Choudhoree's, the late Ambika Choron Banerjee's and Raghonath Negel Gowala's.

[Some general conversation ensuing, a number of persons say that drunkenness has increased.]

5th January 1888, CHONDITALA.

Examination of Banee Madhob Chuckerbutty, aged 28.—I trade in *goor*. I live in Chonditala I have seen two boys of 12, 14 or 15 drunk. I don't know in what school they read. They are sons of Tinkoree Banerjee, and Kedar Banerjee. I have seen both drunk twice, four or five months ago, but not since.

BALOOHATEE.

On the way back from Chonditala to Domjoor, I heard from several people of increase in drunkenness. The head-master of the Baloohatee English School told me that he had no reason to suspect any of his boys of drinking, but that the rising generation was taking to it. On the 6th January I rode from Domjor to Andool about six miles. The site of this still is so far unobjectionable that it is not in the bazar, but it is at the point where a *khal* from Sankrail divides into two branches, one going to Jhaporda and one to Joynogor. The man is allowed a still of 50 gallons and 24 and 36 fermenting jars of 30 gallons each, but he has only 10 of that size and 23 smaller ones, which I measured to hold, as they lie inclined, 27 gallons. None of these were full. I tested his liquor as follows :—

6th January, ANDOOL.

Sample No.	Price.			Strength.	
1.	10 annas	in jar	...	19·4	below proof.
2.	9	„	...	23·5	„
3.	8	„	cask	28·7	„
4.	6 to 7	„	bottle	34·0	„
5.	6	„	cask	33·9	„
6.	4 to 5	„	jar	35·0	„

He has only one kind of liquor in bottle. The Deputy Collector says that the still has taken the place of shops which took 1,009 gallons of spirits from the distillery in 1886-87, giving an average of 504 bottles per month. The distiller uses 40 seers of molasses to each distillation instead of 30. His books show—

		Molasses used.	Outturn.	
		Mds.	Gals.	Bottles.
April	1887	6	.....	99
May	„	84	.....	1,235
June	„	121	.....	1,937
July	„	100	.....	1,605
August	„	94	125	4
September	„	89	255	2
October	„	102	292	2
November	„	95	252	.....
December	„	71	210	.....
	Total ...	762	1,948	.....

He sometimes distilled five and six times a day. The restriction has probably been evaded by more rapid fermentation as well as by increasing the density of the wash.

Examination of Probodh Ghosal, sub-inspector of police, Sankrail.—I have been at Sankrai for four or five months. I was in Sankrail in 1881. I see no increase of drunkenness in my jurisdiction. Much outstill liquor used to come across the river from the Twenty-four Pergunnahs. The distillery liquor used to sell at a rupee the bottle. I don't know what the outstill liquor sold at.

Examination of Ishwar Chondro Kanral, aged 50.—I have land and live here. I used to be booking clerk on the East Indian Railway, Howrah. There is more drunkenness among the people of this village. I see them tipsy about the roads, boys and young men of the upper and lower classes. Hiroo Katal, a boy of 13 or 14, I saw drunk once. Shoshee Bag Koibortto, aged 13, once. Nobin Koibortto, aged 14, once. Bepin Das Koibortto, aged 12 or 13, was seen drunk on the road, and there are others whom I have seen within the last four or five months. I believe they did not drink before. I do not know that liquor came across the river. I do not know the prices of liquor.

Examination of Horee Narain Das Koibortto.—I live here in Mashile. At home I have seen Bepin drunk, and another boy. Liquor used not to be so cheap as now. It used to be one rupee and is now six, eight, and ten annas. One day a set of palkee-bearers got drunk and quarrelled. One day two tipsy men ran after a woman. I saw it. She was a foreigner going along the road alone, not a prostitute. She was calling out by my *baree*. She said they had run with her. I saw the tipsy men. They did not belong to my village, low class men. It was five or six o'clock in the evening in Ashwin or Karttik. There were tipsy people before, but not so many.

Examination of Umor Chand Mookerjee, M.B., medical practioner at Andool.—I have twice seen boys of 12 drunk with their fathers during the last year. Lower class people.

I also see people lying drunk about the road. I have seen them so before, but the number is larger now. Drunkenness has increased on account of the cheapness of liquor. Formerly a bottle would not be obtained for less than a rupee, and now it only costs eight or nine annas. I cannot say whether liquor was brought across from the Twenty-four Pergunnahs. I think not much. *6th January 1888, ANDOOL.*

Examination of Priyonath Singh, a Kayasth, aged 42.—I have been head-master of this school for about six years. I have no reason to believe that any of my boys have taken to drink. There are about 175 on the rolls. I see tipsy people about the street now. The liquor shop used to be close by here, and I have always seen drunkards about the street, but the number has greatly increased this year. There are often drunkards going about the streets making a noise at night. I am often at the house of the Secretary of the school, Nogendro Nath Mullik. He is a zemindar, and I have twice been present when his ryots have complained that they cannot let their women go to fetch water for fear of drunkards. I hear that there are often such complaints. I never heard of such before this year. Increase of drunkenness is due to the cheapness of liquor. I have never heard of liquor coming across the river. I have seen prostitutes drunk in the street oftener than before. There were complaints of drunkenness before, but there are more now.

Examination of Jogonath Mookerjee, aged 28.—I have a dispensary in the bazar. Twice within the last month I have seen women, who were not prostitutes, lying drunk on the road. They were people who brought things to the bazar, Bagdinees. I never saw such a thing before. They were reeling about, not lying down. I have not seen boys drunk. I have heard of it. This drunkenness is due to the cheapness of liquor. I do not know why it has become cheap. I believe liquor is sold elsewhere, because I have seen a Soonree carrying a number of bottles several times in one day. I do not know his name or where he lives. I see this almost every day. Petty thefts have occurred four or five times lately in my garden.

Examination of Moosha, a tailor, aged 30.—I have a shop in the bazar here. There are many drunken people about at night now. It was not so before. My door has been broken open twice. I don't stay in my shop at night. I have seen prostitutes drunk on the road, but no other women. Twice I have seen boys drunk. I do not know their names. I hear liquor is cheaper. I have myself seen an increase in drunkenness.

Examination of Surendra Choron Mitro, a Kayasth, aged 25.—I live in Nogendro Nath Mullik's house. I am a mohurir. Ten or fifteen days ago I saw a Mahomedan man and woman drunk in the road. I once saw a boy of 14 or 15 drunk, a Keyora, not fallen, but reeling, before the outstill was open, when there was a shop. I hear two bottles are now sold for a rupee. I have seen an increase in the number of drunkards on the road. I have heard of a drunken man being drowned in the *khal* two or three months ago. I did not hear his name.

Examination of Bodon Chondro Nath, a Jogee, aged 40.—I am a medical practitioner and a shopkeeper here in Andool. I see an increase in the number of tipsy people on the road, but no little boys or women except prostitutes. Some of the drunkards I see belong to the upper classes, but more to the lower. I did not see so many before the outstill was opened. Liquor used to cost Rs. 1-2 and Rs. 1-4, but now eight and ten annas the bottle.

Examination of Jadoo Napit, aged 60.—I live here in Andool, and keep a vegetable shop. I see many more drunkards on the road since the outstill was opened. I have seen women of the lower classes drunk who were not prostitutes, every ten days or so, since the outstill was opened, but never before. I have seen boys of 15 or 16 drink, but not boys of 10 or 12. I never drink. My son, aged 17, is a drunkard. He has drunk for a year or two.

I afterwards spoke to fifteen or twenty shopkeepers all together, and they spoke generally to a great increase in drunkenness in the streets since the outstill was opened, and to seeing women drunk who are not prostitutes. They did not seem to have seen boys drunk, but young lads of 16 or so. I returned the same day to my camp at Domjor, and on the 7th January rode to Calcutta, making some inquiries at Makorda, where there used to be a liquor shop, two miles from the present outstill at Jhaporda. The people said that they had observed no increase of drunkenness, and that people took home what liquor they wanted. On the 9th January I went by rail to Boinchee, and walked about three quarters of a mile to the outstill, which is on the road from the bazar, quite clear of houses. The still is of copper, which the Deputy Collector told me had been measured to contain 20 gallons. I measured it and found it 25 gallons. This was not the only occasion on which I found the Deputy Collector's information inaccurate. The man is allowed 16 and 24 jars of 20 gallons. I found 21, which contained when inclined, as they are used, 18 gallons. I tested the liquor as follows :— *7th January, MAKORDAH.* *9th January. BOINCHEE.*

Sample.	Price.					
1.	6 annas	... in jar	...	...	30	Below proof.
2.	5 „	... „ cask	...	...	38-2	„ „

The distiller says that he sometimes gets eight annas for the stronger liquor. There are three outstills in the Burdwan district within three or four miles. The Deputy Collector says that the shops of this neighbourhood took in 1886-87 only

9th January, 1888,

BOINCHEE.

119¾ gallons of liquor from the distillery. They doubtless smuggled in much Burdwan liquor. The books show:—

1887.	Molasses used.	Outturn.	Sales.
	Mds. seers.	Gal. bots.	Gal. bots.
April (15 days)	15 10	59 1	45 1
May	35 35	236 3	227 0
June	32 25	214 1	199 0
July	24 30	185 0	152 3
August	27 0	175 3	194 0
September	27 15	197 1	206 3
October	25 25	177 1	193 1
November	19 20	116 2	127 3
December	26 10	153 0	131 2
Total ...	219 0	1,514 0	1,476 1

The monthly fee is Rs. 176. Estimated local demand 75 gallons, London-proof. The restrictions would allow 60 distillations of 20 seers each, or 30 maunds a month. This would give 90 gallons London-proof, or from 140 to 150 gallons of spirit about 30 below proof.

Examination of Jodoo Nath Shaha, partner of Poorno Chandra Shaha, the licensee.—The still was measured by the darogha in *kulshees* and bottles to hold 21 gallons. For each distillation I put in one of these steeping jars—

	Seers.
Molasses	15
Water	30
Spent wash	20
Total ...	65 seers, or 16¼ gallons.

It is date goor, and costs Rs. 3-8 per maund. I put in half a seer of cane goor to each jar. It costs Rs. 4-12 per maund. Wood costs four maunds per rupee. I buy 100 cakes of cowdung for one pice, weighing about ten seers. The distillations of each day take one maund of wood and two or three pice worth of cowdung.

Examination of Horee Mohun Bhatacharjya, aged 59.—I was once in the Thakbust office, but now live at home. In this village twenty years ago there was an outstill. Then there was a shop about a mile east of this. There may have been one at the railway station. I do not know. When there was an outstill before, liquor cost from four to five annas the bottle. Then when there was a shop, the price was from twelve to fourteen annas, and it is now from five to six annas. In the days of the old outstill the upper classes did not drink as they do now, only one or two drank then, but now for the last ten years more than half of them. Now the new outstill is opened they drink much more, both at home and at the outstill. The lower classes, the Harees, Doms and Bagdees, used to drink a little, but have gone on to drink more. There are Mahomedans among the ryots here, they do not drink, nor do the Koiborttos. There are not many. Most of the people are Sodgops, Kansarees, Banyas, Tamboolees, Brahmans, Kayasths; all these castes drink to some extent. The cheapness of the liquor now has led to much more drinking. People of all classes are seen drunk on the road daily. I see people almost daily, or hear of them lying on the road. The only women who drink are prostitutes, and if they drink, it is not in public. I know nothing of any change in the quality of the liquor. The drunkards of whom I speak are men of this village. There would be unpleasantness if I named them. No little boys drink liquor. I do not know of any increase of thefts, but it is probable. I have heard that much outstill liquor from the district of Burdwan was sold in this neighbourhood in the shop days at from eight to nine annas per bottle.

Examination of Opendro Lal Bose, an elected member of the District Board.—I live here; my age is 45. There has been a great increase in drunkenness since the outstill was opened here. Liquor is now procured at six annas the bottle. Outstill liquor used to come from the Burdwan district. It was brought at four annas and sold at eight. It is not the trifling difference of two annas per bottle that leads to such increase of drunkenness, but because liquor is now obtained close at hand, while the drinking of outstill liquor was previously clandestine. I have observed an increase in drunkenness in all classes. They drink both at home and at the shop, but more at home. Drunkards were seen on the roads in the shop days, but now it is a daily sight. I know nothing of women, who are not prostitutes, drinking, nor of boys of 10 or 12. Those of 15 and 16 do. My tenants are Mahomedans, and do not drink. I have heard that there has been distress in one or two households on account of the amount spent on drink. I cannot name them. I have no theard of any increase in petty theft. (Here the crowd shouts out dissent). It is probable.

Examination of Okhirnath Chatterjee, aged 40, *second master of the English school.*—There are 275 boys in the school. I have been here six years. I have never heard of such a thing as drunkeness among the boys of the school, nor of any boys of 10 or 12

drinking. I do not drink liquor. I have not seen very much increase in drunkenness this year, but have heard drunken people on the road making a noise. I have heard of a case of a woman being pursued by drunkards four or five months ago. (The audience testify to the case.) She was a Brahman. It was four or five o'clock in the afternoon. Her husband is living. He is here, but objects to having his name given. *9th January 1888, BOINCHEE.*

[The said husband, Greesh Chondro Chatterjee, next came forward.]

Examination of Greesh Chondro Chatterjee, aged 55.—I am a *shebak* and *gooroo*. Last Bhadro my wife and two or three other women had gone to wash clothes, and on the way three tipsy men ran after them, Horee Das Boshoo, Bhooshon Chondro Khetree, and Ram Lal Mochee. They are men of 25 or 26 years of age. They were drunk and had bottles in their hands. I never heard of such a case before. Drunkards have increased in this village since liquor became cheap. I know of no boys of 10 or 12 drinking, nor women, except prostitutes.

Examination of Bashanto Koomar Mookerjee, aged 45.—I live here. This place belongs to my family. No women of respectable families have taken to drinking, and among the people of the lower classes it is very rare. I should say that the proportion of people among the general male population who drink has increased since this outstill was opened from four or five annas to eight annas. Burdwan outstill liquor used to be smuggled here, and sold at four and five annas the bottle. This was, however, rare, and the police were on the alert Boys of 15 or 16 drink, but not boys of 10 or 12. There has been some increase in petty thefts. It is very common among our tenants for families to be starving because of the amount of money spent in drink. Three or four times women and children have come with complaints to this effect. Doorga Das, a Brahman of very respectable family, has sold his house and all his property and is a beggar. This was before the outstill was opened. The outstill has placed liquor within the reach of every poor man. I am speaking of this village.

The statements of the foregoing witnesses were accompanied by a running commentary by a large audience, corroborative and supplementary. On the 12th January I went by rail to Pondooa, and walked about a mile to the outstill, which is outside the village, on the Grand Trunk Road, at a place where there is a weekly market. It is also close to the *ghât* to which all the neighbourhood resorts. The Deputy Collector says that this outstill has taken the place of shops which in 1886-87 took 598½ gallons of liquor from the distillery. The estimated local demand was 150 gallons per month, giving 50 maunds of material, and the fermenting capacity allowed is 24 and 36 jars of 20 gallons each, which should give 45 maunds of material. I measured one of the jars to contain 18 gallons (inclined.) The still is of metal. I could not measure it. It is supposed to contain 40 gallons. The license is in the name of Benee Madhub Shaha. *12th January, PONDOOA.*

The book shows—

		Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sale.	
		Mds.	s.	Gals.	bots.	Gals.	bots.
April 1887		55	20	276	5	238	2
May		60	30	277	0	308	0
June		80	10	398	0	357	0
July		60	0	338	4	359	1
August		56	0	292	5	205	5
September		48	0	229	0	252	3
October		28	0	144	0	227	3
November		50	0	218	3	239	3
December		64	0	306	0	241	0
		502	20	2,480	5	2,428	5

I tested the liquor with the following result—

Sample No.	Price.			
1. ...	10 annas ...	in bottle	9	9 Under-proof.
2. ...	8 to 10 „ ...	„ cask	8	8 „
3. ...	6 „ ...	„ „	28	7 „
4. ...	6 „ ...	„ bottle	24	3 „
5. ...	5 „ ...	„ cask	37	2 „
6. ...	5 „ ...	„ bottle	34	9 „

Examination of Botre Krishna Shaha.—I am partner of Benee Madhub Shaha, the licensee I sell three kinds of liquor—five, six, and eight annas the bottle. I sometimes get ten annas for the latter liquor. Thirty seers of goor are used at each distillation. I cannot tell how many bottles of each value are sold. I have no account of it.

12th January 1883, PONDOOA.

Examination of Jahirooddeen Ahmad, Sub-Inspector of Police.—I have been here only three months in charge of this thana. I do not see many people drunk. I have never seen one lying drunk on the road, nor heard of it. I heard of a case twenty or twenty-five days ago, and sent to see about it, but the man had gone. I do not know who it was; he was a stranger. The school is near the thana. I have never heard of a school-boy being drunk. I have never seen a woman drunk, nor heard of women drinking, except prostitutes. There are thefts, but not in unusual numbers. I do not hear drunkards singing and making a noise, but I see them walking unsteadily, two or four men daily, more on *hât* days, when there are ten or twelve. They are coolies and labourers, not people of the upper classes.

Examination of Mahomed Mubarak.—I live in Pondooa; my age is 30 or 35; I have *ayma* land. There are many Mahomedans here. There used to be a liquor shop near the railway station. It is far from my house, and I do not know what went on there. Now there are many drunkards. There is a noise every day in the prostitutes' houses, singing and drumming. It used not to be so. I have two or three times seen low caste people lying drunk on the road naked here by the outstill. There are no Brahmans, Kayasths or Boidyos here. I think there are more drunkards since the still was opened. Mahomedans do not drink. Taking all the people of all kinds in the village as sixteen annas, one or two annas now use liquor. The number was much less before. I see people drunk on the roads, singing and making a noise. I hear of drunkards going to seize women who escape. I cannot mention any. I hear of no drinking among the school-boys. The drinkers are Harees, Mochees, Doms, Chanrals, and that sort of people.

Examination of Kalee Podo Nandee, aged 21.—I have been head-master of the school here for two or three months; there are 45 boys. It is a middle class English school; none of the boys drink. I have no suspicion of it. I do not drink. I live a mile away. I do not see drunken people on the road. I come to school at 10-30 A.M. and return at 4 P.M.

Examination of Huree Podo Pal, aged 35.—I keep a general shop (*goldaree dukan*). I do not drink. I have always lived here; my shop is close by here. I see people of the lower, but not of the upper classes drunk. I see a drunkard every two or three days, not daily. I did not see them before the still was opened. I mean not so many; there were a few on market days; the lower classes drink more; no small boys; drinking has increased on account of the cheapness of liquor. It used to cost Re. 1-4 a bottle, and now eight annas; I know nothing of Burdwan outstill liquor coming here.

Examination of Mahamad Shadot, aged 65 —I have a *zemindaree*. I pay Rs. 300 revenue. I live here close by. There are more tipsy people here on the road than there used to be, people of the lower classes, especially on market days, and there is a terrible smell from the outstill in the rains all over the place. There is a constant noise in the prostitutes' houses, and last year there was nothing of the kind. There is now always singing and noise; eight or nine times I have seen people lying drunk on the road within the last nine months. I never saw it when the shop was near the station. Women and children cannot come to the tank for water now for fear of the tipsy men. I have heard of women being attacked, but I cannot mention names. I know of no small boys drinking.

Examination of Sayed-uz-Zurma, aged 65.—I used to be a mohurir in the Moonsif's Court at Beergunj in Dinagepore. Drunkenness has increased in the last eight or nine months among the lower classes on account of cheapness of liquor; no small boys drink. I do not know the price of liquor, but have heard outstill liquor is cheap. The lower classes used to drink, but much less than they do now. Mahomedans don't drink. I have not heard of it.

Examination of Baboo Khan, police constable, aged 30.—I have been here about six years. There was last year a liquor shop at the railway station. There is now an outstill at the market place. People now drink more, and many more drink. They take liquor away to drink. It is cheaper now—six, eight, and ten annas a bottle. It was before one rupee. People of all classes drink—Mahomedans, Brahmans, &c. There are no Brahmans in this village. I speak of other villages. Four or five times I have seen Harees, Bagdees, and Doolees lying drunk on the road, but not people of the better classes. I have not seen people drunk in other villages. The lower classes take away the liquor to drink themselves, not to sell. I have no suspicion of shops elsewhere. No one takes away liquor to sell.

Examination of Hira Lal Datt, aged 36.—I have a gold and silver shop; am a Suvarnabornik. The price of liquor has fallen from one rupee to eight annas, and many more people of the lower classes drink. There are no better class people here. I have no suspicion of liquor being taken away for sale. People drink here and also take away liquor. I have heard of boys of 12 or 13 drinking, but have not seen it; boys belonging to the upper classes. I have heard no names. I know of no increase in petty theft of garden produce or anything else. I see people taking away five or six bottles at a time; see it every three or four days this year. I never saw it in the days of the shop. Five or six times I have seen low caste people lying drunk on the road, coolies. Musalmans do not drink much. I know nothing of any difference in the quality of the liquor. I have heard that it was better before, and that it has a smell now. I live here, north of the thana; the prostitutes live five or six ropes from me. I know of no noise there at night.

Examination of Pachkouree Swornokar, aged 36.—I live here. I see many people tipsy, singing on the road, and nearly every day see people taking away five or six bottles. I believe it is taken across the Mugra khal, which is four *kos* from here. When there was a shop at the station, I did not see people drunk on the road. The lower classes did not drink then. A man can now get drunk for six pice, and it used to cost four annas.

I talked to a Haree, who deposed to cheapness of liquor and increase in the use of it. The only fault he found was that the liquor at five and six annas the bottle was weaker than the old used to be, but he said that at eight and ten annas the liquor was as good. I visited two *taree* shops; one man said the price of his stuff had come down from four pice to two the pot (quart?), but at this *mela* time the price was three pice. The other was a new man. *12th January 1888, PONDOOA.*

Examination of Modhoo Soodon Mitra.—I have been station-master here for over nine years. I have observed a great increase in drinking this year among the Doms, Mehtars, and the like. The working men of the station get drunk almost every evening. A man who would get drunk formerly once a week now gets drunk four or five times on account of the cheapness of liquor. I only once saw people come drunk as passengers. I turned them out. They were Chasa Sodgops, and asked me to drink with them. I have never seen liquor taken away by passengers.

In the evening I went by rail to Mugra, and thence by boat down to the river Hooghly. On the 13th January I proceeded up the river by boat calling on the way at Sreepoor (thanna Balagarh), where there is an outstill. On the 14th January I arrived at Gooptipara, and walked more than a mile across a *chur* to the outstill, which is on a road leading from Balagarh to Kulna. On the way to the outstill I spoke to the agent of the local zemindar, who has some two hundred ryots. He says the price of liquor has fallen from one rupee to six or eight annas the bottle. That he knows of no increase in drinking. The only objection to the site is that it is on a much frequented road. It is not in a bazar. It is close to the boundary of the Nuddea district on the east, and to that of Burdwan on the north and west. The one shop of which it has taken the place took only 127 gallons of liquor, averaging 36·4 below proof, in 1886-87, and much liquor came in from Nuddea and Burdwan. The local monthly demand was estimated to be 112½ gallons London-proof, and the still was originally allowed 24 and 36 jars of ten gallons each. The Deputy Collector says, however, that it was afterwards allowed a smaller number of larger jars. I found eleven only, of which I measured one (inclined) to contain 19 gallons. Nearly all were empty. The still is of copper, and the Deputy Collector says that he has measured it to be of 21 gallons capacity. The books show:— *13th January, 14th January, GOOPTIPARA.*

	Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sales.	
	Mds.	s.	Gals.	bots.	Gals.	bots.
April 1887	23	10	122	4	94	4
May	33	2½	144	0½	155	0½
June	45	6⅔	223	1½	204	2½
July	19	15	101	4	117	3
August	15	35½	72	3½	87	5½
September	20	5⅓	87	3	62	1
October	12	2	58	7	58	1
November	7	27½	38	2½	57	2½
December	14	20½	69	2	67	5
Total ...	191	5½	918	4	905	1

I tested the liquor as follows:—

Sample No.	Price.			
1.	8 annas	in jar		21·6 under-proof.
2.	6 „	„ „		28·7 „
3.	6 „	„ cask		31·8 „
4.	4 „	„ jar		44·3 „

The license is in the name of Shyama Choron Shaha. The gomashta Ooma Choron Shaha is his maternal uncle. He and the outstill servants gave me sullenly and suspiciously the following information:—The quantity put into each jar is 15 seers molasses, two *kulshees* of water, and two *hanrees* of spent

14th January 1888, GOOPTIPARA.

wash (*shoshto*). I measured the *kulshee* to hold about $3\frac{3}{4}$ gallons, and the *hanree* $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallon, which makes the wash—

	Seers.
Molasses	15
Water	30
Spent wash	12
Total ...	57 seers or about 14 gallons.

Occasionally sixty pellets of *bakar** are put in. I presume this is only when the spent wash fails to set up fermentation. The contents of one jar only are used for each distillation. Fermentation takes eight days in the hot, twelve in the cold season. The empty jar is fumigated with burning straw only, without any drugs. The molasses consists of half a seer of cane sugar (*dhima*) and $14\frac{1}{2}$ seers of date sugar (*kootra*). *Dhima goor*, otherwise known as *shachee*, costs Rs. 5 the maund, *kootra* from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2-12; firewood Re. 1-4 per cartload of ten or twelve maunds. The rent is Rs. 5 per annum. The buildings cost Rs. 60. The servants cost monthly, besides their food—

	Rs.
Gomashta	10
Distiller	6
Water-carrier	5

Distillation takes from two to two and-a-half hours, and yields $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 gallons. Half the liquor is drunk on the premises and half taken away. It is sold at from five to eight annas the bottle, and sometimes at four annas. The consumers belong principally to the lower classes—Boonwas, Doms, Chanrals, Keyoras, Harees and Jaliyas. There are few people of the upper classes, and Mahomedans do not drink. Neither women nor little boys come for liquor. People do not fall drunk on the road, except at *mela* time, the Ruthjatra and Chandjatra.

Examination of Shotra Ghona, a Boonwa, who came and bought a pint bottle of liquor for three annas in my presence.—I live here. The liquor now is better than that of the shop used to be. Two men could get drunk off this little bottle, and three off a big bottle, if they are good drinkers (*khub khanewala*). Two could not be drunk off a big bottle before, when it cost twelve annas the bottle. That was the regular price. It is cheap now. Those who drunk before now drink more. No one now drinks who did not drink before. No women or children drink in our houses. We work on the roads and cultivate land. I spend Rs. 7 or Rs. 7-8 a month. I drink two or three such bottles as this per month. It is good liquor, not drugged.

Examination of Nadir Alee, Mahomedan, head-constable of police.—I have been here four years and-a-half in charge of the outpost. There used to be a liquor shop here. The price of liquor used to be twelve annas per bottle. I hear that it is now six, eight, and nine annas. Many drink in this neighbourhood of the lower classes, Harees, Keyoras, Doolees, and the like; very few Mahomedans drink. If they do it is secretly. People drink more now on account of the cheapness of liquor. Formerly ten or twelve cases of smuggling liquor across the river were detected. It is suspected that much liquor came across. Liquor also came from the Burdwan district. The fear of the police kept down the consumption before. There is a daily bazar here. Many drink here at the shop. I hear of people lying drunk on the road. The outpost is a mile away, and I have not seen people so lying. I see tipsy people on the road making a row. They were few before, and are many now. I see no women among them. I hear Boonwa women drink at home, but not little boys. I neither see them nor hear of it. I have heard of a child with its mother taking away liquor; they were sent up for smuggling; they were Boonwas. I have not heard rumours of any increase in petty thefts There have been five cases of lock-breaking against three in the previous year. I know of no trespassing nor attempts at outrage on women.

Examination of Ponchoo, a Bhuinha.—I live near here. I am blind. I have come here for liquor; four annas worth. This bottle full would cost six annas. We used to get our liquor from Shantipoor, the few of us who drank. The price used to be eight and ten annas; the liquor now is better. Four men would now get drunk off a six annas bottle. I do not know about the Shantipoor liquor. This liquor has no drug in it. I should know if there were, and should complain. None of our women drink, nor our boys of 10 or 12. We do not give them any liquor, nor do they steal to get drink.

Examination of Potol Shekh, aged 40.—I am a bricklayer. I live here. I do not drink. There are twenty-five houses of Mahomedans here. I do not know of any of them drinking, nor suspect it. There are many Braumans, Kayasths and Boidyos here, and a few Sodgops and Koiborttos. I do not know of their drinking. There are many Bhuinhas who drink, and always did drink, both since this shop was started and before. I cannot say whether

* See Excise Commission's Report, volume 1, page 40.

they drink more now than they used to. I see that they do drink more. Tipsy men make a great noise in this shop. I have also seen them on the road. I do not know about any noise when there was a shop, as my *baree* was not near as it is to this. No women drink, nor boys of ten or twelve. Lock-breaking thefts have become more common, and fruit thefts. People talk about them more. I know of no trespassing nor of outrage on women. Women going along the road for Ganges bathing run away because of the noise the drunken people make. *14th January 1888, GOOPTIPARA.*

Examination of Bechoo Shekh, bricklayer, aged 48.—I live here. (He gives evidence similar that of the last witnesses). There is more drinking among the lower classes here in this shop than before, because the shop used to be some way off in the bazar. Tipsy people used to be seen occasionally before. I never heard of liquor coming across the river. I have heard of it, but have not seen it. No women drink. I have seen boys of ten drunk, belonging to the lower classes, two or three times. I do not know their names or fathers' names. There is more drinking in the country generally. Liquor is cheap. I do not know why.

Examination of Gobordhon Boonwa, aged 55.—I live here. I have come here to drink. Have brought five pice. I do not know whether I shall be drunk on that. I shall be a little drunk. It is a good thing this outstill being here—a boon to the people. I never buy a full bottle, and do not know the price of one. The liquor here is good and not drugged. I should not know if it were drugged. It has no smell, except the smell of liquor. We used to get liquor from Shantipoor and Kulna. We drank it there, and did not bring it home. It is two months since I came for a drink. I used to come two or three times a month. I used to go to Shantipoor or Kulna sometimes once a month, sometimes not so often, according to my earnings. We are ten or twelve households. Our women do not drink, nor our little boys. Sometimes a man may give his son a little.

Examination of Dwarkanath Bhatacharjya, aged 45.—I am on the punchayet of the village. Liquor used to come here from Kulna and Shantipoor, and there was a shop in this bazar. I live seven or eight ropes from here. Now many people get drunk. Not many before. People are seen tipsy now about the ghâts and roads. I believe it is due to the outstill. I cannot say whether people living a *kos* away from the outstill drink more. I have seen Boonwa women drunk at the *ghât*. Two or three times in Bhadra at the time when indigo is being manufactured. I have seen boys of ten or eleven drunk, not school-boys, or children of the upper classes. I do not drink. I do not know of Brahmans drinking. Lock-breaking and fruit thefts have become more common. I hear of it as punchayet this year. I have been on the punchayet for six or seven years, and never heard of it before. It is the lower classes who drink. I have seen them drunk on the road, naked. Yesterday I saw a man lying drunk, naked, ten or twelve ropes from here, close to the road. The school master has gone home. The school boys do not drink.

Examination of Koilash Chondro Gangoolee, aged 55.—I am a contractor, member of the school committee. There is no drinking among the school boys. I live near here. If people of the upper classes drink it is at night, and we do not know. The lower classes drink. I suppose they drink more since the outstill was started. I do not know of women drinking. I do not know anything about people who live a *kos* away.

In the afternoon I dropped down the river again, and on the morning of the 15th January visited the outstill at Sreepoor. It is in the middle of a large crowded bazar, twenty yards from the market place, and from the main road from Hooghly to Kulna. The local demand was estimated to be 75 gallons of London-proof spirit monthly, and the Deputy Collector says that the allowance is 18 and 27 jars of one maund each. I found the signboard erroneous and misleading. There were 17 jars of which I measured one to be of about 18½ gallons' capacity (inclined). The still is of copper which the Deputy Collector says he has measured to contain 21 gallons. He says that the shops of this area in 1886-87 took 183¼ gallons of distillery liquor. *15th January, SREEPOOR.*

Examination of Ram Gopal Shaha, the licensee.—The wash is composed of—

Molasses	...	...	...	15 seers.
Water	...	...	...	24
Spent-wash	...	...	...	10
				49 seers, or 12¼ gallons,

each jar being only two-thirds full, and the contents of one jar being used for each distillation. Distillation takes from 1½ to 2 hours, and gives 9 bottles. Fermentation takes now from six to seven days, and in the hot weather from five to six. There is no water in the receiver. Liquor is sold at from five to eight annas the bottle, never higher. The jars are fumigated with straw only, without drugs. One-fourth of the liquor is drunk here, and three-fourths taken away, from four to six bottles at a time, not for sale, but for consumption. People of all classes drink on the premises, especially Bourees. Some Mahomedans drink. A prostitute comes for liquor, but no women or little boys of the lower classes. The ground rent is Rs. 12 per annum, the buildings cost Rs. 100, the two servants get Rs. 20 monthly, and fire-wood costs Re. 1-8 to Re. 1-12 per cart load. Each distillation takes 3 annas worth of wood.

15th January 1888, SREEPOOR.

I visited a sugar-factory in the bazar, where the date sugar as it is received from the growers is strained, and the sugar (*chinee*) extracted. The molasses (*mát*) remaining is what is sold to the distillers at from Rs. 1-8 to Rs. 1-12 per maund. The distiller said it cost him Rs. 3 per maund, but when confronted with the above facts he admitted that it was cheaper now. I tested the liquor as follows:—

Sample.	Price.				
No. 1.	9 to 10 annas	...	in jar	...	...	17·1 below proof.
„ 2.	8 „	...	cask	...	...	25·9 „
„ 3.	4 to 5 „	...	„	...	...	39·7 „

The books show—

		Molasses used		Outturn.		Sales.	
		Mds.	s.	Gals.	Bots.	Gals.	Bots.
April	...	26	0	130	0	125	0
May	...	47	1	198	4½	198	4½
June	...	40	26	196	5	168	4
July	...	37	13	174	0	168	5
August	...	34	4	165	3¾	144	3¼
September	...	22	29	106	4½	132	1
October	...	24	5½	174	4¾	115	2
November	...	11	6½	80	3	168	4¾
December	...	31	22	145	0	103	0
		274	27	1,372	1½	1,325	0½

Examination of Ram Choron Chatterjee, sub-inspector of police.—I have been darogha of this thanna for six years except from April to October last, when I went to Kulna in Burdwan. There used to be a liquor shop here, but not last year. Liquor used to be obtained secretly from across the river and from the Burdwan district. I hear that it used to cost four annas the bottle. Shop liquor came from Bankipoor, three miles away, at fourteen annas and one rupee the bottle. Thefts have increased. Lock-breaking thefts have increased from about 20 in the year to 24 or 25. I include fruit and grain thefts and petty cases. They are very few. I should think that half of the males in my jurisdiction drink, the upper classes not so much as the lower. The women of the Boonwas and the like are said to drink, but I have not seen it. I have not heard of little boys drinking. Drinking has increased near the outstill within the last three months, but not at a distance. Four or five people are seen drunk in the month near the bazar. There have been no cases of trespass or attacks on women going to the ghât.

Examination of Madhoo Soodon Banerjee, aged 23, *headmaster of the higher class English school.*—There are 155 boys. None of them touch drink. I have not heard of other boys of 10 or 12 drinking. I have been here one year. I see much drunkenness here, but not more than near my home in Beerbhoom. I live at Chondihat, which is six miles from any outstill. The drunkenness is more. I see Dhangors and the like just before evening singing madly, not every day, but on alternate days. I never saw women drunk, nor people of the higher classes.

Examination of Ram Chondro Mookerjee, aged 47, *second master of the school.*—I have been here fifteen years. My home is at Tetooliya near here. None of the boys of the school drink. I have heard that boys of the lower classes, 10 or 12 years of age, drink. I have not seen it, nor have I seen women drink, nor heard of it. I see low class people drunk, not better class people. I do not drink.

Examination of Amrito Lal Mustafee, a Kayasth, aged 66.—I am a shareholder in the zemindaree of this village. We have 1,500 or 1,600 households of ryots, including the bazar. Our tenants are of all classes. I have heard rumours of distress in families on account of drink, but have received no actual complaints. I have heard of no cases in the upper classes. The women of the Bourees, Doms, and the like drink occasionally. I have seen five or six drunk in their houses and on the roads this year. I never saw such a thing before this year. Liquor is cheaper now. Liquor used to come across the river secretly. Liquor from the shop here used to cost Re. 1 or Rs. 1-2 the bottle. I do not drink. I have heard that the smuggled liquor used to cost eight annas the bottle. I live a quarter of a mile from here. I see more drunkards about the road than I used to, falling down and singing. The chowkidars take away liquor for people when they come to the thanna. Petty theft and lock-breaking is more common than it used to be. I have heard no complaints of liquor being bad or drugged. I know of no secret liquor shops in the mofussil. I think drinking has increased, not only in the bazar, but in the mofussil also. I have seen that women

of the Bourees, etc., used to drink before. They drink a little more now. I have heard of drunkards attacking women. *15th January 1888, SREEPOOR.*

Examination of Kedar Chongo Chanral, aged 50, *blacksmith and cultivator.*—I live here. One day four or five tipsy men were outside my *baree*. My son's wife was going out for water. The drunkards were making a noise. She shut the door, and they came and knocked on it. I went out and sent them away. She did not go out, being frightened. I never drink. I see more tipsy men going along the road now than before; they were few before. I see no women among them.

Examination of Banjee Mala, Jaliya, aged 60.—I live in this place. I drink liquor. We are four men. We give seven or eight annas for a bottle. Cannot get it for four or five annas. Two men like me can get drunk off one bottle. The liquor is good, not drugged. Before this year we used to go to Santhiyagarhee across the river, or to Kulna, Shantipoor, Kaligunj or Chogdah for liquor. It used to cost four, five and six annas the bottle. The liquor now is of the same quality. Two men would get drunk off a bottle of either. None of our women drink. Some Chanral women do. Some little boys may drink secretly. They run away if they do, or if they smoke tobacco. They get pice from their parents on pretence of buying sweetmeats. More people drink since the outstill was started. Less liquor was drunk before because it was drunk secretly and we had to go a long way for it. We spend two or three rupees a month in drink, and seven or eight if we are lucky in getting flotsam from the river. We used to spend the same amount.

Examination of Dayaram Chanral, aged 35, *blacksmith.*—Women have been frightened by tipsy men and run away. The tipsy men wanted to seize them. My wife went to the ghât, and tipsy men ran after her, and she ran away. I drink liquor. I give eight, nine and seven annas for a bottle, not less than six annas. I used to get liquor at five annas from Chogdah and Kaligunj. I drank it there, did not bring it home. The liquor was of the same quality as now—not drugged. No Chanral women drink.

Examination of Bosonto Bijoy Mustafi, Kayasth, aged 19.—I am a schoolboy. Two or three months ago I and others wanted some boys to race boats. They said they would not do it for pice, but would for liquor. We did not give them liquor. They were Jaliyas. Boys of nine or ten years of age. Rajendra Lal Mitra, aged 25, and Nonee Gopal Sett, aged 19, were with me. No one else. I am reading in Balagurh school. [*This youth is author of the story cited by the Indian Association.*]

Examination of Hara Keyora, Chowkidar of Zirat, 1½ *kos from here, south.*—I do not drink. None of the people of my village drink. Not one.

Examination of Chinibas Mochee, Chowkidar of Shomra, two miles west.—Says that none of his mohulla drink.

Modon Mochee, Chowkidar of Johira, two miles west.—Says that no one drinks in his village No Mochees.

Chondor Dom, Chowkidar of Kelagorh, two miles south.—Says that no one drinks in his village, and that there are no Doms in his mohulla.

Horee Keyora, Chowkidar of Zirat, three miles south.—Says that no one drinks in his village. They are all people of the higher classes, who do not drink.

Toshto Doolee, Chowkidar of Pankhola, three miles south.—Says that no one drinks in his village. They are Koiborttos, Chashas and the like. That he never drinks himself.

Examination of Shoojyo Dom, Chowkidar of Bankipoor, two miles west.—There used to be a shop in my village, and people used to drink. I do not. The price used to be fourteen annas or a rupee the bottle. No outstill liquor used to come there. Keyoras, Boonwas, and Bourees always used to drink, and they drink just the same now, neither more nor less.

Examination of Chondi Mochee, Chowkidar of Shomra, two miles west.—The people of my village drink liquor. Bankipoor is west of my village. Liquor used to cost fourteen annas and Re. 1-2 the bottle. Drinking is just as it was formerly, not more or less. The Shekras drink. There are no Brahmans, Kayasths or Boidyos there. The Mochees drink. There are 16 or 17 households of them. They do not all drink. No women or little boys drink.

Examination of Moti Lal Mochee, Chowkidar of Joshra, two miles west.—Bankipoor is east of it. There was a shop there. The price of liquor used to be fourteen annas and a rupee. I never drink. Bourees and Boonwas drink. Drinking now is neither more nor less than it used to be. No women drink, nor little boys. Thefts have not increased.

Examination of Kalee Das Modok, aged 30.—I have a shop here, and live here. I see many more people drunk since the outstill was opened. I see many tipsy women belonging to the lower classes pass my shop. I see five or six women drunk every month. I cannot say whether they are prostitutes or not. I think they are prostitutes. The people I see drunk are men of the upper classes, Kayasths and Brahmins, as well as low class people. I never saw such things before when there was a shop here. When there was a shop people used to take the liquor to their houses.

I returned to Calcutta on the 16th January. On the 19th January I went from Calcutta to Oolooberiya by boat and visited the outstill with the Deputy Magistrate in charge of the sub-division. No previous notice had been given of this visit, and neither the Excise Deputy Collector nor the representative of the Indian Association were present. I found 30 steeping jars, each of about 30 gallons capacity, and an earthen still of the same. *19th January, OOLOOBERIYA.*

19th January 1888, OOLOOBERIYA.

I had no means of testing or measuring with me, not having intended to visit this still till my return.

Examination of Rajkristo Mistree, aged 45, *caste Doolee*—I work in the outstill. The license is in the name of Mohendro Shaha. There are 30 jars of three maunds each. The still is of about the same capacity. I put the contents of one jar into the still. The contents of one jar are 2 *hanrees* of molasses, each of 18 seers, 3 kulshees of water, each of 15 seers, and one *khulshee* of spent wash, with two seers of *bhelee goor* (cane sugar dry and hard), costing Rs. 5 per maund. The other is the molasses of date sugar after the sugar is taken, out, *kootra goor*. We use no *bakar*. We fumigate the jar when empty with straw, putting no *koochila* or anything with it. No water is placed in the receiver. Fermentation now takes fifteen days, in hot weather from eight to ten days. We are then allowed 21 jars. We use one maund of wood for each distillation, which takes five hours, and gives from 4 to 4½ gallons of spirit. In hot weather we use 3½ *kulshees* water; now only 3. I mean we put more water with the molasses in hot weather. *Kootra goor* costs Rs. 3 per maund. Wood 5 or 4 annas per maund.

(*N.B.*—The price of wood is said by by-standers to be three maunds the rupee.)

Examination of Mohendro Shaha, the licensee.—There are four servants, a mistree on Rs. 10 per month and the others on Rs. 7 each. The ground rent is Rs. 7 per month. The houses are my own. The still never bursts.

The books show—

1887.		Molasses used.	Outturn.	Sales.
		Mds. s.	Gals. bots.	Gals. bots.
April	... ...	48 0	202 2	132 3
May	... ...	56 28	172 2	196 5
June	... ...	57 0	184 4	182 4
July	... ...	56 26	189 5	185 5
August	... ...	59 1	223 3	195 5
September	... ..	51 23	194 2	223 3
October	... ...	52 22	179 5	204 0
November	... ...	52 24	199 4	143 3
December	... ...	52 23½	208 4	180 2
	Total ...	485 27½	1,755 1	1,645 0

The site is in a crowded bazar with prostitutes' huts at the back, in which any amount of wash might be fermented. It is also close to the steamer landing *ghât*, and altogether objectionable. The monthly fee is Rs. 320. Walking down the bazar I questioned seven or eight of the shopkeepers, and some said that there were fewer drunkards seen now than before the outstill was opened, some said more, but there is clearly no great increase of drunkenness, and what there is is among the lower classes. The liquor is sold at from five to eight annas per bottle. The price when there was a shop was one rupee. I was followed about by a troublesome fellow, who tried to prevent the shopkeepers from speaking as they chose, suggesting to every one I questioned that drinking had greatly increased.

Examination of Khagendro Nath Mitro, Deputy Magistrate.—I have been here since December 1886. I think there is a little more drunkenness now than there used to be, but not much. No cases of smuggling have been brought before me, but I always heard that much liquor was brought from Raipoor, across the river, in quantities of six bottles. I believe the price was from five to eight annas the bottle. What increase there has been has been among the lower classes, but my information is not accurate. I do not think there has been any increase in drinking at a distance from the outstills, but I think people who can now get liquor close to their houses drink more than they did when they had to go further for it. There would be no prosecution for smuggling less than six bottles. Some liquor was detained as being in big bottles, but they were found not to exceed 24 oz. each. This was three or four months ago. I have heard of no drinking among boys at the school, nor anywhere among boys of 10 or 12 years of age, except what is said in the newspapers. Prostitutes drink always. I have heard that women of the Mehtars and other low castes have always drunk, but I have not heard of any women who are not prostitutes drinking in the bazar. I should not say that there has been any great increase in drinking in Oolooberiya.

Examination of Bhoobun Mohun Roy, head-constable.—I have been here for two years There are not many drunkards in the bazar. The lower classes drink a little more since the

outstill was opened. No women except prostitutes drink, nor boys of 10 or 12. People drink out in the mofussil as well as in the bazar, because liquor is cheaper. Liquor from across the river used to cost five or six annas the bottle. It now costs eight annas, but people can drink openly now which they could not before. The shop liquor used to cost a rupee the bottle. *19th January 1888, OOLOOBERIYA.*

The outstill of Oolooberiya has taken the place of shops which in 1886-87 took only 359 gallons of liquor from the distillery, but the area was really supplied with liquor by the outstills on the other side of the river Hooghly. I went on by boat, and on the 20th January reached Shyampoor thana, where I obtained the following information:— *20th January, SHYAMPOOR.*

Examination of Bidhoo Bhooshon Ghos, head-master of middle class English school.—I have been here for a year. There are 58 boys on the books of the school. None of them drink spirits. I do not hear of little boys drinking. There is not much drunkenness here or out in the mofussil, but I have heard that there is some at Kharooberiya, where the outstill is. There is no drinking among the people of the better classes here. I never drink.

Examination of Nimay Choron Das, sub-inspector of police.—I have been here for five years. There are more drunken people about here since the outstill was opened, because liquor is sold at four, five and six annas, and sometimes seven annas the bottle. Before when there was a shop liquor cost fourteen annas and Re. 1. Outstill liquor used to be brought across the river to drink, but not to sell. It cost five annas on that side at Kantagachee. It was brought at the same price, four or five annas, from Tumlook and Jeewankhalee. It was brought principally by Koiborttos. The better classes drank the shop liquor. The present liquor is said to be weaker. The outstill liquor is suspected of being drugged, because it makes people more drunk than they think they should be on sound liquor. I do not hear what the drug is supposed to be. The increase in drunkenness is among the low castes, the Bagdees, Koiborttos, Keyoras and Korongas. Some of their women always drank when they could get liquor. Prostitutes drink night and day. Koiborttos and Boishnabs complain of their sons being depraved through drink, and robbing their parents to get the money, not boys, but young men. Otherwise there is no increase in theft in this jurisdiction. Drinking has increased not only in the neighbourhood of the outstill, but in my whole jurisdiction. People take away five or six bottles at a time for friends who want it, but I do not suspect any regular trade in liquor anywhere, or any shops where liquor can be bought. No school-boys or boys of 10 or 12 drink. I do not think a *minimum* rate per bottle could be enforced. Seller and purchaser would combine to conceal the true price. One-fourth of the drinkers drink at the still, and three-fourths take their liquor away. I saw a man in the Kharooberiya Barwaree mela five or six days ago tumbling about the road. I hear that it frequently occurs. No one has been taken up this year as being unable to take care of himself. I believe the still works night as well as day. I did not know the police should interfere. I mean late in the evening, not all night. None of the constables drink; they are all Boishnabs, as I am, or Mahomedans. *21st January, KHAROOBERIYA.*

I had much conversation in the evening with Mr. Ritchie, now Magistrate of Howrah, and for some time Joint-Magistrate of Serampore. Next morning, on the 21st January, I walked nearly two miles to Kharooberiya outstill. It is situated is on a *khál* about a mile from the Damooda, in a bazar in which there is a market every Tuesday and Saturday. Twenty or thirty prostitutes live here, indicating great traffic, and the *khál* is full of boats, ten or twelve large ones, importing rice. There is no road. The boats do not go further to the westward. This outstill has taken the place of shops at Boureah hat, six miles north on the Damooda, and one here. These two shops took in 1886-87 only 63 gallons of distillery liquor. The local monthly demand was estimated to be 80 gallons London-proof, and the upset price was fixed at Rs. 150. The outstill was not let till September, and then let at Rs. 80 only. The still was reduced from 20 to 10 gallons, and the steeping jars also from 20 to 10 gallons, their number being 16 and 24. I found 24 in the place, of which 21 were full. I measured the still to contain 10 gallons when full, and each jar (inclined) 11 gallons. Thirteen gallons of spirits were brought from Bagnan to begin with, and the books show—

	Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sales.	
	Mds.	s.	Gals.	bots.	Gals.	bots.
September 19th to end ...	1	0	5	2	13	1
October	13	20	72	5	59	2
November ...	9	0	42	4	48	5
December ...	13	10	58	1	59	1
Total ...	36	30	179	0	180	3

21st January 1888, KHAROO-BERIYA.

I tested liquor—

Sample.	Price.				
No. 1.	6 to 8 annas	... in cask	...	21·6	below proof.
„ 2.	Ditto	... „ bottle	...	34·9	ditto.

The distiller denies that he dilutes his liquor in bottle, but I tested carefully twice. The license is in the name of Modhoo Soodan Shaha, who has the outstills, either in whole or in share, at Jhaporda, Sarenga, Ooloobériya, Bagnan, Andool, and half a dozen other places on both sides of the river Hooghly.

Examination of Nadiya Chand Shaha.—I am the gomashta. I am related to Modhoo Soodan Shaha. I mean we are fellow-villagers. In each jar we put molasses 10 seers, spent wash 5 seers, water two *kulshees* [I measured each *kulshee* to contain 2¾ gallons.] We use date sugar (*chita goor*) of which the price is Rs. 3 per maund. Fermentation takes eight or nine days. The contents of one jar go to one distillation, and we get from seven to eight bottles from each distillation We use 20 or 25 seers of wood for each distillation. I give six annas per maund for *soondaree* wood. It is sometimes four maunds for a rupee. We fumigate the jars with straw only, and use no drug. We put five *chitaks* of cane sugar in the wash. We put no water in the receiver. One-fourth of the liquor is drunk here and three-fourths taken away in quantities of from one to six bottles, but generally only one or two bottles. The drinkers here are of the lower classes. No women drink. The people who take away liquor are also low caste people. No boys drink, nor take away liquor. Prostitutes come and take away liquor. I never sell under seven annas the bottle. Never sell at four or five annas.

I visited the *taree* shop, and was told that sales had fallen off since the outstill was opened. I questioned a shopkeeper at the market-place. He said that he occasionally saw people drunk on market days, but no women or boys. He had not seen tipsy people till recently.

Examination of Bistoo Horee Poramanick, aged about 45.—I have had a shop here for three years. On market days I see people drunk here, not on other days. I see no women drunk, not even prostitutes. I have not seen boys drunk, but have seen boys of 10 or 12 drink here at the outstill. They are Koiborttos, not Jaliyas. I have only seen boys drink since the still was opened. There was a shop here before, and I saw people tipsy, but not so many, and I saw no boys. The people I see drinking are of the upper classes, principally Brahmans, Kayasths. (Turns to answer murmur of audience) "Why should I tell lies." The lower classes do drink, but the upper classes drink much more. I do not drink. I hear that liquor is not sold under seven annas the bottle. The price used to be Re. 1, Re. 1-1, Rs. 1-2. I do not know where liquor came from before, but I know it came., I have seen no women pulled about or insulted. I can name no names, but I have heard. of tipsy men going into houses. I cannot say in what villages. I know of no increase in thefts.

One Nobosoodan, who has come with a boat-load of straw from Palpara five miles south of Ooloobériya, says that there are no people who drink spirits in his village.

Examination of Gobind Chandro Das, aged 30, *a Koibortto.*—I live at Ghazipore one *kos* from here. I have a *talook* and land. I have seen people drunk here, people from my village who come to sell straw—Koiborttos and Bagdees. I have seen no women nor boys drunk. The few Brahmans and Kayasths do not drink I have also seen people of my village drunk going along the road. I have seen this within the last four or five months. It was rare before. In Boisakh and Joishto there was much rice stealing. No other thefts.

Examination of Gobindo Chandro Bandopadhya, aged 40.—I live a mile away from this at Narayanpoor. I have land and a cloth shop. The drinkers in my village are Chasha Koiborttos. Some of them drink at home, and some here, six-sixteenths here and ten-sixteenths at home. I do not know whether their women drink. Boys of 14 and 15 drink, but not boys of 10 or 12. I did see boys of 10 or 12 drunk in the Bárwaree Pooja on the 1st Magh, not boys of my village. It was on the road away from here. People who used to drink twice a year now drink twice a month They drink more because of the outstill, which brings liquor nearer. I do not speak of drinking increasing at a distance from the still. There have been no thefts in my village, nor outrages on women, nor trespass by drunken men.

Examination of Mochiram Hazra, aged 60.—I live at Loshkorpoor, half a mile from here. I cultivate land, being a ryot of Ram Narayon Ghose. I have twelve beeghas. Have also *bhága* land. I have two ploughs. People of my village drink, Koiborttos and Goalas. They have always drunk, ever since there was a liquor shop. I do not speak of the outstill. There are two who now drink; formerly there was only one. Not more than from two to five people drink in my village. No women or boys drink. There have been no thefts, nor trespass. A drunkard named Choron Goala threatened to burn houses, but he did nothing. He knocked at Bhorto Goala's house. They drink both here and at home. I see people drunk going along the road on market-days. I saw this often before, but more now.

I examined the sale book to see whether sales increased on the market-days, when villagers come in from the mofussil. In January I observe some such increase, but none in December, when sales are somewhat smaller on market-days. *21st January 1888, KHAROO-BERIYA.*

Examination of Lukhee, prostitute.—I am a Kayasth. I have been here ten years. Liquor is drunk in my house. It costs now from six to eight annas the bottle, and before Re. 1 and Re. 1-4, good liquor. Now it is bad liquor and makes people ill; makes people more drunk. Increases red discharge. [I could not understand her meaning.] Only two or three people can get drunk off one bottle now, whereas before four people could get drunk off a bottle of shop liquor. The liquor smells bad now. Smells of tobacco leaf. I know nothing of liquor from across the river. Most of the men who come to us are boatmen.

Examination of Onyo, prostitute.—I have been here eleven or twelve years. The liquor now is worse, and we can't drink it. It smells of tobacco, and makes people more drunk. Now four or five people get drunk off one bottle, and formerly only two or three. The present liquor produces bleeding from women. The liquor is stronger now. More villagers come to us than boatmen. The price of liquor is five or six annas now, and used to be one rupee the bottle. Blood passes, after drinking, from both men and women

Examination of Horee, prostitute.—I am by caste a Chasha Dhoba. I have been here for two years. Liquor is worse now, and gives pain in the stomach. It is hot, and smells foully now. It is hot and strong. Only three people can now get drunk off one bottle instead of four as formerly. The stink is that of *chita goor* and tobacco. The price is six or eight annas, and was formerly one rupee.

The representative of the Indian Association says that he has no witnesses here whom he wishes to be examined. Finding that there was no further information to be obtained, I walked to the river Damooda, and dropped down on the ebb to the Hooghly, where I waited for the flood, on which I went up to Oolooberiya. On the morning of the 22nd January I sent the Deputy Collector to the outstill which I had visited on the 19th to measure the vessels and test the liquor. He reported the strength of liquor as follows:— *22nd January, OOLOO-BERIYA.*

Samples.	*Price.*				
No. 1.	10 annas	... in cask	...	...	18·6 below proof.
„ 2.	10 „	... bottle	...	...	19·6 „
„ 3.	6 to 7 „	... cask	...	...	23·5 „
„ 4.	6 to 7 „	... bottle	...	...	26·3 „

The still is earthen. A spare one of apparently the same size was found to contain 32 gallons. The jars measured 31 gallons (inclined). The delegate of the Indian Association brought up the following witnesses:—

Examination of Rotee Kanto Singh, Chetree, aged 52.—I am a gomashta of a zemindar. I live near Oolooberiya, a *kos* away to the northward, at Baugerbund Brindabonpoor. Many people drink in my village, Koiborttos, Musalmans, Bagdees, Chanrals, Sooklees, Tantees, Brahmans,—all classes of men. Two or three days from the end of Bhadro, early in the morning, a Koibortto boy of my village, whose name I do not know, told me that his sister had gone with Tara Monee, a prostitute, to Jongol-Bilash-Peer hát, which is near the village, just across the *khál*, and had not come home. I called Tara Monee, who was at home, and she said Ram Paramanik's kept woman and Bishoy Boshtob's son and another man of Nolta had taken the young woman away. I called the kept woman, and she said she had brought the girl to Tara Monee's house at night privately. Tara Monee's son said she was in a certain jungle, and there she was found alone with three bottles, two empty and one full of liquor—I mean earthen pots or earthen bottles. People in my village used to drink, but not so much as now. They used to drink *taree*, but now drink less of it. Since liquor has become cheap. Boys of 8, 10 and 12 drink. Man Koomar Choudhoree, aged 12 or 13, I have seen drunk from two to four times. Jogendro Choudhoree, aged 13 or 14, I have seen drunk twice. I cannot name others, but I have seen many boys drunk. Neither of the two abovenamed read in any school. There is a *mela* in Jongal-Bilash-Peer on the 1st Magh, and on account of the number of tipsy people there this year, the women who went there ran away. It was never so before. All this is because outstill liquor is cheap. In previous years outstill liquor never came across the river. Liquor used to cost Re. 1 the bottle; was never obtained for less. No liquor came across the river at four or five annas.

(I noted this man as a witness upon whom very little reliance can be placed, as showing great animosity against the outstill and inclination to exaggerate.)

Examination of Noor-ool Hukk, aged 27 *or* 28, *pleader.*—Since there has been an outstill here there have been more drunkards, and many drunkards are seen singing and making a noise on the road. Before they did not drink liquor. Theft and fighting have increased. I cannot name a *baree* in which there has been a theft. The number of thefts

22nd January 1888, OOLOOBERIYA.

are known in the court and to the police. I know no more about it. Cases are pending, cases of drunkenness. There are many cases. I cannot speak of previous years. Cases of drunkenness have increased in court since the outstill was opened. I cannot say without seeing the records of the court. I believe they have increased. I have heard it from people.

Examination of Chooranjeeb Prosad Bose, inspector of police.—I only came here in September. I see drunkenness in the bazar, occasionally, but know nothing about previous years. I go about in the mofussil a good deal, but have not heard people speak of any increase of drunkenness. Outstill liquor still comes across from the Twenty-four-Pergunnahs, because a better price is obtained here. When I first came here liquor was sold at from ten to twelve annas the bottle, it now costs six or eight annas, on account of the liquor from the Twenty-four-Pergunnas. I have seen prostitutes tipsy, but not other women. I know nothing of market women getting drunk. I hear nothing in the interior of women of the lower orders drinking, except that Doolee women, &c., drink *taree*. I do not hear that they drink distilled liquor. I sent up a boy at the Sree Ponchomee, who was in a *jatra*, a boy of 22 or 23, for being drunk. I never see boys of 10 or 12 drunk in this village. I hear no general rumour of petty thefts not reported at thana.

Examination of Chondro Nath Nondee, second master of the higher class English school.—I have been here more than fourteen years. There are 90 boys on the books. There were boys who drank, but their names were struck off last May on account of their drinking. The age of one was 18, another 15, and a third 12. None have drunk since. I have no suspicion of it. A boy is expelled at once for drinking. I see increase in drinking this year in Oolooberiya. I see more tipsy persons on the road now than in previous years. I see women tipsy, but none who are not prostitutes. I saw a boy in a *jatra*, aged 22 or 23, who was sent up for drunkenness. I do not see boys of 10 or 12 drunk on the road. There has always been much drunkenness here. It has more than doubled. It has trebled. Not quadrupled. The increase is principally among the lower classes. I have seen a woman lying naked on the roadside at 9 or 10 o'clock. It was on Friday, the day before yesterday. On the main road, this side the canal. I do not know who the woman was. Her *saree* was a clean one, with a red border, and she looked like a prostitute, not a village woman. She may have had silver *mols* on. She seemed 18 or 19 years of age. I do not know whether there is much drinking among the Baboos. It is said that the outstill has cheapened liquor.

Examination of Seetal Chunder Ghosal, aged 24, Brahman, a pleader.—(Gives certain cases in which he has seen people drunk.) I rarely saw people drunk before. I see more now. Drunkenness has more than doubled. Has not trebled. I speak of the bazar. I believe the price of liquor is now from six to eight annas. It used to be Re. 1 to Re. 1-4. I do not know that liquor used to come across from the Twenty-four-Pergunnahs. I have heard that it did. I have not seen women drunk, but I hear that women of the lower classes drink, not *taree*, but outstill liquor. I do not know whether they drank *taree* before. I have not seen boys under 12 drunk, but have heard they do drink. I have heard it from my friends, from this man and that.

22nd January, BOWREAH.

I proceeded the same day, 22nd January, up the river to Bowreah (Fort Gloucester). The site of the outstill is unobjectionable. It is considerably to the south of the bazar, about half a mile, 300 yards from the river, and 30 from the road, on which there is no great traffic. I find 30 jars, of which I measured a sample one to contain 15 gallons (inclined). This place is allowed a 30-gallon still, and 20 and 30 fermenting jars, supposed to hold 20 gallons each, to work off each 20 seers, whereas the distiller really uses 31 seers. I tested the liquor as follows:—

Sample No.				
1	... 6 annas	... in cask	...	31·7 below proof.
2	... 7 „	... „	...	19·7 „

The difference between the strength is far greater than that between the prices. The man says he has only these two kinds. The outstill was not opened till the 13th May 1887. The books show—

		Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sale.	
		Mds.	s.	Gals.	bots.	Gals.	bots.
May	1887	17	0	119	2	75	1
June	„	25	20	155	0	165	5
July	„	47	10	192	3	189	1
August	„	51	38	180	1	141	2
September	„	34	16	106	5	177	3
October	„	53	24	201	0	167	1
November	„	48	32	212	4	149	0
December	„	40	0	168	5	168	2
	Total ...	318	20	1,336	2	1,233	3

Examination of Ashootosh Shaha.—The license is in the name of Bholanath Shaha, my brother. Modhoo Soodon belongs to the same village. He has no share. I make my wash of— *22nd January 1888, BOWREAH.*

Molasses	...	...	...	30 seers.
Water	...	...	...	32 „
Spent wash	...	...	...	12 „
Hard sugar	...	...	...	1 seer.
		Total	...	75 seers.

The 30 seers is *kootra goor* from which sugar has been extracted, and the price is Rs. 3-2 per maund including carriage. The hard sugar (*bhelee goor*) costs Rs. 4. Fermentation takes 18 or 19 days. The people who come here to drink are Chamars, Dhobees, and low caste people, such as Dosads; they are principally from western districts, such as Patna, &c. Prostitutes come here for liquor. No other women, nor little boys About one-fourth of the liquor is drunk here and three-fourths taken away. None is taken away by boat. Boatmen and manjees drink here. I use one maund of wood for each distillation; it costs six annas. Some upper class people come for liquor. I use neither more nor less fluid in the cold weather than in the hot. I sell at six and seven annas, not less; sometimes at 8 or 10 annas the same kind of liquor. I have not lowered the price since I began. The Budge-Budge shop opening made no difference. It opened a month after me. The partners in the Budge-Budge shops are Chanroo Mistree, Modhoo Soodon Shaha, and others. There are many shareholders, but Bholonath is not one of them. I use nothing but grass in fumigating the jars. I put no water in the receiver.

(*N.B.*—Madhoo Soodan Shaha has admitted having shares in both Bowreah and Budge-Budge outstills.)

I had a conversation with Mr. Downs, the Manager of the Bowreah Cotton Mills, who has known the place for fifteen years. He thinks many more people go across to Budge-Budge for their liquor than to the Bowreah outstill, and does not think that there has been any increase of drunkenness since the outstill was opened, though he has had to discharge two or three Baboos for drunkenness this year which he never had occasion to do before. There was always a liquor shop somewhere close by. I also questioned Greesh Chondro Goopta, native doctor, long resident here. He says that shop liquor used to sell at one rupee the bottle, and Budge-Budge liquor at eight annas. That the Bowreah outstill sells at ten annas. He has observed no increase in drunkenness. I resumed my inquiry at Bowreah on the 23rd January. *23rd January.* Mr. Downs says that owing to the good wages there was much drunkenness even when liquor cost one rupee the bottle.

Examination of Miton Joy Ghose, Sodgop, aged 62.—I live here at Bowreah. We have land here and trade. There has been more drunkenness this year since the outstill opened. Liquor is cheaper now. I hear it is three and two bottles the rupee. The Budge-Budge liquor is and was three bottles the rupee. We heard that shop liquor used to be Re. 1-4 the bottle. People of the lower classes if they get two pice can go to the shop and drink. I think the number of drinkers has doubled. We see them on the road now, and did not see them so much before. We now see plenty of them. Women who used to go out night and day are now afraid, because there are so many more tipsy people about.

Examination of Gobindo Pashee, taree dealer.—I have been here three years. My license fee is Rs. 34 per month. It has been the same for five years. Three maunds is sold per month. It used to be two maunds. It is less now. [Is unwilling to give information.]

Examination of Horee Mohon Ghose, Sadgop, aged 36, *head-clerk of the mills.*—Drunkenness has increased among both the higher and lower classes. Liquor used to cost Re. 1-4 the bottle, but the price is now three and four bottles the rupee. Last year Budge-Budge liquor used to cost two bottles the rupee. Women of the lower orders, who are not prostitutes, do not drink. I have seen boys, a Brahman and a Sodgop, lying drunk on the road at the Doorga Pooja holidays. Their ages were 12 or 13.

Examination of Shworno Koibortto, a prostitute.—Liquor is drunk in my house. It costs six annas. The shop used to sell at Re. 1 and Re. 1-4. I lived four years with the shopkeeper. His liquor came from Mohiyaree distillery. People drink now who did not drink before.

Another woman says that the present price is six annas per bottle. The only shop in this area in 1886-87 was open for two months only, taking 19½ gallons of liquor from the distillery. The area obtained liquor from Budge-Budge. After examining some more persons at Bowreah, I went *SARENGA.* up on the flood to Sarenga. The outstill is on the river bank among brick-fields, one mile north of Hirapoor bazar. It is not among habitations.

23rd Januory 1888, SARENGA.

The Deputy Collector had finished measuring and testing before I arrived. The local demand was estimated to be 80 gallons London-proof per month = 106·66 at 25° under-proof. The licensee is allowed a 20-gallon still, which it is found by measurement to be 24 and 16 and fermenting jars of 20, gallons each. He has actually 24, of which two were measured to contain 13½ and 18 gallons. All but one are of the latter size.

I tested liquor as follows—

Sample No.	Price.			
1.	10 annas	... in cask	...	15·3° below proof.
2.	8 „	... „ jar	...	18·9° „
3.	8 „	... „ bottle	...	18·9° „

The books show—

			Molasses used.		Out turn.		Sale.	
			Mds.	s.	Gals.	Bots.	Gals.	Bots.
April	1887—4th to 30th	...	43	12½	...	814	...	705½
May	„ ...	...	44	26	...	956	...	1,042½
June	„ ...	...	48	20	...	986	...	992½
July	„ ...	...	52	1¼	...	1,147	...	1,112¾
August	„ ...	...	48	20	...	975½	...	969¾
September	„ ...	...	54	19½	204	3½	210	5
October	„ ...	...	55	20¼	194	...	188	4½
November	„ ...	...	46	27½	162	5	141	3
December	„ ...	...	49	11¼	177	4	152	3
	Total	...	442	38¼	1,552	16	1,497	2½

The license is in the name of Rakhal Chondro Shaha (see Chonditala) son of Modhoo Soodan Shaha. His partners are Gopal Chunder Shaha and Doya Haree Shaha, both present. They say—

We sell liquor at eight and ten annas, not less. We put in the jar—

Molasses	20	seers.
Water	40	„
Spent wash	20	„
Hard sugar	0¾	seer
Total ...	80¾	seers = 20 gallons.

[*Memorandum.*—The jars hold only 18 gallons, and none have more than 14—15 gallons in them.] We use the same quantity of fluid in the hot and cold weather. The time of fermentation is 8 to 11 days in cold weather, five or six in hot weather. Distillation takes from 2½ to 3 hours, giving an outturn of from nine to twelve bottles. We wash out the jars, and fumigate them with grass, using no drug. The molasses used is *Bhadooriya goor* from Bhadooriya in the 24-Pergunnahs. It is *kootra goor.* The sugar has not been extracted from it. The price is Rs. 3-4 and Rs. 3-5 per maund. The hard sugar (*bhelee goor*) costs Rs. 5. The first distillation takes a maund or a maund and-a-half of firewood, and the subsequent ones rather less. Wood costs Rs. 33 per 100 maunds. The liquor is drunk here, two annas' worth or so at a time. Most people drink here. One-fourth is drunk here and three-fourths taken away, from half a bottle to six bottles at a time. Servants are sent for it by the upper classes: the lower classes sit and drink here. No women or boys drink. Each drinker here drinks from two to eight pice worth, not more. None fall down drunk here. We put no water in the receiver. I (Gopal) am Rakhal's father's brother. Daya is a *kootombo*, not a near relation. Bholanath is no relation. I do not know where he comes from. No liquor is taken away by boat, but people go away in boats.

Examination of Oghorenath Bose, Kayasth, of Sankrail.—I have come to see the shopkeeper here who is an acquaintance. There was a liquor shop at Sankrail last year. I do not know at what price liquor was sold. There are few drinkers at Sankrail. It is over two miles from this. I do not know whether they get liquor from this or from Andool. So far as I see, drinking has not increased or decreased this year.

Examination of Okhoy Koomar Banerjee, of Sarenga, aged 40.—I have land. There are not many liquor drinkers here. There has been no increase or decrease in drinking this year. There are few members of the upper classes here and no school. About a fourth of the lower classes of the place drink—Musalmans, Pods, Keyoras, Bagdees. The Goalas do not drink. Women do not drink, nor boys. There has been no increase in thefts this year.

Examination of Khettro Mohun Goala, aged 35, *of Sarenga, dairyman.*—Two or three-sixteenths of the people of this place drink. There has been no increase or decrease in drinking this year. No women drink. 23rd January 1888, SARENGA.

Examination of Gopal Pashee, aged 35, *taree seller.*—I have had a *taree* shop here for many years. I pay Rs. 17 per month, the same that I have always paid. *Taree* is generally sold in the hot season (in April, May, and June) more than at other times, but all the year round to some extent. I cannot say whether there are more *taree* drinkers or spirit drinkers. I do not know whether any *taree* drinkers have taken to spirits.

Examination of Mohendra Nath Chuckerbutty, Brahman, of Goondolpara, thana Jogotbollobh-poor.—I live at Goondolpara, two miles from Joynogor. Two or three people of my village drink, low caste people, not people of the upper classes. They do not drink more this year than before. None of the upper classes drink.

Examination of Biraj Koiborto, of Sankrail.—I came here to load *goor*. I do not know whether Sankrail people drink more or less than they used. I mind my boat business.

Examination of Baneshwar Doolee.—I am chowkidar of Manikpoor, about a mile from this. A few of the people of my village drink, lower class, not upper class people. No women or boys. There has been no increase or decrease in drunkenness this year. A few of us Doolees drink. I do not. Liquor costs eight or ten annas the bottle; six annas; this is what common people pay for their liquor. Some drink here, some take liquor home.

Examination of Digumbar Keora, chowkidar of Sarenga, aged 65.—I used to drink liquor, but have not drunk for seven years. The lower classes of my village drink. No women. People drink here and do not take liquor home. Liquor costs eight or ten annas the bottle, not less. People do not drink more since the outstill came here.

As I was leaving after recording the above, I met half a dozen clamorous people eager to speak to me, and shouting that the place was miserable, and that all the boys were corrupted by the outstill. I went on to examine some of them.

Examination of Moti Lal Ghose, naib of the zemindar.—The village has become unhappy (*amongol*). The boys have all become bad. Besides this man's son, there are Tarok Lashkar Pod, aged 16, Roma Choron Pod, aged 18. I do not remember any more. I know of none of ten or twelve, except this man's son. No women drink that I know of. Eight or ten sixteenths of the people of the village drink this year. Last year not more than from four to six annas drank.

Examination of Hara Nanda Shana, Pod, aged 45.—I have a brickfield and land. I sell bricks in Calcutta. My son, Kalee Kerohta has been drunk within the last eight or ten days, at the time of the *mela*. I do not know of his drinking before. His age is 14 or 13. He may have drunk secretly before, but was only drunk this time. I have heard that many boys drink. I do not know the names of any. I do not know of women drinking. They probably do it secretly. People drink more because the shop is near. Did not drink so much before. About three-fourths of the people have begun drinking. There are many thefts. A duck was stolen to get drink. I do not know who stole it. A certain woman's duck; I forget her name. It was two or three months ago. [This and the last witness are very anxious to make out a case against the outstill.] I do not stop at home. I do not know of any other theft. Cannot mention any *baree* in which there has been a theft.

Examination of Srinath Shana Pod, aged 35, *cultivator.*—I deal in *goor*, etc. I drink. My *baree* is here. I have drunk for ten years. I used to get liquor from Sankrail at one rupee per bottle. I now get liquor here at eight or ten annas. I used to go across to Budge-Budge for liquor. The price was eight or ten annas. The present liquor is not so good. There is not so much intoxication (*nisha*) in it. The present liquor produces nausea (*hákál*) in the mouth. I do not know of any bad drug in it. I drink five or six times in a month. Before I drank twice or three times, according as I could get pice. [Witness Hara Nanda says this man drinks daily.] Hara Nanda is my own brother.

Proceeding up towards Calcutta, I stopped at Sankrail and walked through the bazar to make some inquiries, but it rained steadily, and I could not get people together for the purpose, and so returned to Calcutta. On the 27th January I dropped down the river to Oolooberiya, and thence rode to Mohesh-rehka. I made some inquiry on the way at Chundipoor, a small bazar, my visit not being expected. There is a *taree* shop here, and I heard at first that there was but little drinking; that the few people of the upper classes did not drink, and that those who did drink used *taree*. Afterwards, however, some people said that a certain amount of country liquor was obtained from Oolooberiya four or five miles away, and that whereas it used to cost Re. 1-2 per bottle, it could now be obtained from the outstill at four or five annas. I found no outcry against drinking at this place. On the 28th January I rode from Moheshrekha to Kantapokhor, about eight miles. I went first to the mouth of the canal, where it leaves the Roopnarayan, and where there is a shop or two. Questioned the people. They denied that liquor came across from Midnapore, and said that liquor was previously obtained only from Bagnan

27th January, CHUNDIPOOR. MOHESHRE-KHA.

28th January, KANTAPO-KHOR.

28th January 1888, KANTAPO-KHOR.

shop, costing Re. 1-4 per bottle, and that the outstill liquor is now sold at eight or ten annas. They denied its being sold at four annas or less than eight annas. They said that drinking had increased among the lower classes; that the higher classes drank but little. I rode along the canal to the outstill, more than a mile. The site is unobjectionable, except as being on the canal bank. No houses about. It was at first two or three furlongs to the eastward, but was removed as being near a school and ferry ghât. This site belongs to the Government canal authorities This has taken the place of Noontiya shop only, two miles to the south. Noontiya last year took only 12¾ gallons actual quantity from the distillery, being open only in June and July. The license was surrendered. The estimated local demand for this neighbourhood was 40 gallons per month. The excise authorities allowed a still of 10 gallons, and 16 and 24 fermenting jars of 10 gallons. The man has actually 16 jars, which I measured to hold 10 gallons, upright, and about 8 gallons inclined, as actually used. The Deputy Collector tells me that he broke this still in June, as being too large, and has now broken the one in use accidentally after putting 13½ gallons in. It probably measured 15 gallons. It was calculated that the distiller should use 10 seers of molasses per jar, viz. 60 jars per month (30 days) at 12 days per jar, or 600 seers (15 maunds) per month. This at 3 gallons per maund would give 45 gallons of spirit London-proof per month. The books show—

	Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sales.	
	Mds.	s.	Gals.	Bots.	Gals.	Bots.
April 1887	12	10	49	1	30	4
May „	11	25	46	0	53	0
June* „	3	10	15	3	22	3
July „	6	30	27	1	25	1
August „	7	20	30	4	28	3
September „	6	20	26	0	27	1
October „	8	30	35	0	32	0
November „	8	10	33	0	30	0
December „	8	20	34	4	34	1
	73	15	297	1	283	1

* Work interrupted in June for 25 days.

Tested liquor.

Sample No.	Price as stated by distiller.		
1.	Eight annas	in jar... ...	35·3° below proof.
2.	Six or seven annas	„	37·6° „
3.	Five annas	„	44·8° „

The license is in the name of Rhidoy Shaha.

Examination of Rhidoy Shaha.—I have sold liquor at ten annas, but have none of it now. The higher classes drink only the eight-anna liquor. They are Koiborttos, who are big people, Brahmans, Kayasths, etc. They come from Chandbhag, Noontiya, Bantool, etc. They do not drink here but take away their liquor. Some of them come in boats. Of the lower classes who drink, some are boatmen, but not many: they are principally villagers, Keyoras, Koiborttos, Chanrals, and a few Mahomedans. About a fourth drink here, and three-fourths take away their liquor—half a bottle to three bottles, not five or six bottles. No women or little boys drink. I put into each jar—

Molasses	... ...	10 seers.
Water	... ...	25 „
Spent wash	... ...	5 „
Total	...	40 „

The molasses is date sugar (*chita goor*) from Noontiya, costing Rs. 3-4 per maund. Firewood costs 4 maunds per rupee, and each distillation takes half a maund. I use a quarter of a seer of hard sugar (*bhelee goor*) in the ten seers. I use no *bákor*. I use more water in the cold season, and less in the hot. I use nothing but straw to fumigate the jars, no

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drugs. Fermentation now takes ten or twelve days, and in the hot weather from six to eight. I get about six bottles from each distillation. I have no water in the receiver.

Examination of Priyonath Mullik.—I live at Howrah and sometimes here. I edit a newspaper. I have twice visited this outstill and I saw several drunkards making a noise there. One was a chowkidar, one was a barber lying drunk, and his little boy was sitting by him. I do not know that the boy was drunk. My house is a quarter of a mile from the Noontiya shop. I have seen people of the lower classes drunk there occasionally I hear from my correspondents that drunkenness is of frequent occurrence now. I have seen no women drunk. I have heard of a respectable married Brahman woman getting drunk in Moog-kalyan Many people saw her drunk outside her house about a month ago. I would rather not give the name. I know nothing more of women drinking in this neighbourhood. Boys of the Keyora caste, aged 10 or 12, have learned to drink. I have not seen any drunk. The father of a boy told me yesterday that his boy robbed him of two rupees and got two or three bottles of liquor from this shop, and got drunk with some other boys. The father's name is Bhooya. He is a zemindar's chowkidar. The boy's name is Baboo Lal. I spend half the month here and half at Howrah.

Examination of Notobor, Piyada of the Phánree.—I live at Batool. I know Bhooya. He is chowkidar in a zemindar's *baree*. The zemindar is Shoorjee Koomar Pundit. He is District Engineer of Berhampoor. I know nothing of Bhooya's son getting drunk. He lives with his grandfather at Kalyan. I remain at Noontiya *Phánree*. There used to be a liquor shop at Noontiya. The price of liquor was Re. 1 and Re. 1-4 per bottle. The Noontiya people now get their liquor here. I hear that the price is 8 annas. I have heard that liquor came across the river from Khola at 8 annas per bottle. I hear nothing of women at Noontiya or Batool drinking. I have heard of boys of 10 or 12 drinking. I do not know their names. I have never heard a boy named. I never drink.

Examination of Obhinash Poorohit, a Brahman, of Chándbhág.—I live a mile from here. The people of my village drink, all classes. Brahmans and Kayasths drink. There is one Boidya only, and he does not drink. The lower classes drink more, the Keyoras, Koiborttos, Telees, Bagdees, Musalmans. I know nothing of their women drinking. People used to drink the liquor at Noontiya shop, and now drink from this outstill. Whether more or less is drunk now than formerly I cannot say. There are thefts in the village, but not more this year than formerly. Boys of from 15 to 16 all drink. They used to drink shop liquor before, and they drink more since the outstill was opened.

Examination of Nrito Gopal Mookhopadhya, aged 21.—I live at Chandbhag. I read at home, medical books. I used to be at Baranagore school, but read only up to the second class. I know Horee, aged 18, and Narayan, aged 19, have taken to drink. I saw them drunk. They did not drink before. Now they do drink. I have seen them drunk once at the Saraswati Pooja, never before. I have heard, I forget from whom, of their being drunk before. I have not seen them drunk since. I have seen a man named Priya, of Horee-narayanpoor, drunk. He tumbled up against me. It was about a month ago. I don't know whether he drank before or not. I see people drunk now in Banerjee's *baree*. They drank before, but drink more now. I know of no women drinking in the village. I have questioned boys who go to the pathsala, and they have told me some of their boys drink. I have seen a Brahman boy drunk in Batool at the end of Posh, a boy of 22 or 23. I see no boys of 10 or 12 drunk. I have heard of a woman, a Brahman married woman, of Nund Kalyan, being drunk. I did not see it. I know her husband's name, but I will not mention it. Her husband drinks. He was not here last year, but has come here newly this year. I see low class people in the markets and on the roads drunk, which I never saw before. I have seen people drunk before off *taree*, but not so many as now. There is a daily bazar in Chándbhág. I do not see drunken people daily, but only every fifteen days. People now ask me for pice to get liquor, coolies, Bâgdees, and the like, who are working in my *baree*. My father is an overseer in the Port Commissioners' depôt at Budge-Budge. Last Monday at 4 P.M. I saw four drunkards in the *maidan* running after a young woman, with a basket under her arm, and she was crying out. When I spoke to them, they let her alone. I do not know where they came from, or who they or the woman were. Drunkards were never seen about this neighbourhood before.

I questioned chowkidars of Boral and Mashmin, who both say that none of the people of their villages drink at all.

Examination of Mohesh Chundro Keyora, of Bagaberiya.—No one drinks in my village There are no upper class people there.

Examination of Lokhi Narayan Keyora, Chowkidar, of Najorpoor.—There are four or five Musalmans who drink in my village. No Hindoos. Before there was an outstill they got their liquor at Noontiya. When there was no shop there, they got it from Oolooberiya or anywhere. No liquor came across the river. I am not telling lies. They do not drink more, now.

Examination of Pobon, Chowkidar of Bhoorihara, Keoyra.—I never drink. The Dumpodars of whom there are five households, drink. No one else. They drink this outstill liquor. Drink wherever they go begging. Drink when they come back. They are Musalmans. They never drank liquor from across the river. Drank away from home before. [This witness is concealing something, probably the smuggling of liquor across the river from the Midnapore outstill of Khola.]

Examination of Deeno Das Boiragee Bostom, aged 45.—I live here, in Bagaberiya. I am a beggar. I never drink. The Dumpodars drink. They are fakeers. No one else drinks. They get drunk much. Drink this outstill liquor. They used to drink liquor from Oolooberiya,

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bringing it home. Liquor was brought from across the river at twelve or fourteen pice and eight annas the bottle. Their women also drink. I have seen them drunk. They are loose women, but they live with their husbands and are not prostitutes. Their children so high (a cubit) drink. Mochee Shekh made a drunken disturbance ten days ago at my house. I was not at home. He kicked at the door and told the women to come out, and he would dishonour (*be abroo*) them. They were two women. They closed the door and would not go out. With Mochee was Gopal Durzee and Thorab Durzee's son. They have always drunk. They used to get their liquor from Ooloobériya.

Examination of Rash Beharee Ghosal, Brahman, aged 23.—I am teacher in the Moog-Kalyan higher class English school. One boy of the school, aged 16, drinks. Has been tipsy once. He only smelt of drink. I do not know whether he drinks otherwise. I know of none of the other boys drinking. I have heard a rumour of a certain respectable Brahman's wife being drunk, being forced to drink by her husband when he was drunk. There are 'gentlemen' who used to drink before in the village, and who drink more since this outstill was established. I know nothing of any other women drinking. Two servant boys of under 16 and under 17 drink. The former, Tarinee Choron Pal, is a servant of mine, a Koibortto. I have seen him drunk more than 20 times. Has served me seven years and more. I have seen him drunk before, but rarely. He drinks more this year, twice a month. Before he drank only once in three or four months. I have heard of little boys drinking, but have not seen them. Thefts are not common in my village. My brother once came home drunk from a ceremony in a gentleman's house. My brother's age is 20 or 21. He began drinking this year.

Examination of Sombhoo Chunder Hajra, Sodgop, aged 62.—I live at Nozorpoor. Am a contractor for the Public Works Department. Drunkenness has increased, not in my village, but among the Dumpodars of Kantapokhor. I do not know that they drank before. I have heard noisy drunkards on the road at night. I am on the road ten or twelve days in the month, and hear them and see them. I have never seen or heard them before this year. Thefts are not common in my village. Dumpodars' women drink. They are not prostitutes, but live with their husbands. Their boys of 13 and 14 drink. I have seen one drunk He seized my legs and *salamed* to me a month ago.

BAGNAN.

As I returned to Moheshrekha, I visited at Bagnan the cutcherry of the estate of Ponna Lal Seel, which has a large property here and towards Mondolghat. I questioned the manager, a respectable elderly man, who was not in the least prepared for my visit, and he said that liquor had become cheap and that drinking had certainly increased in consequence among the lower classes; that their women did not drink. He called some of his bearers, who said that a bottle now costs six annas, and was enough to make two men drunk.

NOTIBPOOR.

In the evening I walked to Notibpoor, which is inhabited almost entirely by Nobosoodras (Chanrals). The first man I spoke to said that no one, small or great, ever drank liquor in the village, and of course lied. I afterwards had some talk with a decently dressed man of about 45, who said the Chanrals did drink; that he used to drink, but gave it up, as the outstill liquor produced ill-effects on the body, which was not the case with the shop liquor, but that as it sold for six and eight annas, whereas the shop liquor used to cost a rupee, the lower people drank more of it. He said that there were higher and lower classes even among the Chanrals. This man seemed to wish to tell me the exact truth. He said the women did not drink. I could not understand how the inferior liquor affected people, but he said it deteriorated the body, but that as to intoxicating, a bottle would make two or three men drunk just as before.

29th January, BAGNAN.

On the 29th January I rode two miles to Bagnan. The estimated local demand was 80 gallons of London-proof spirit per month, taking $26\frac{2}{3}$ maunds of molasses at 3 gallons per maund. The still was to be 20 gallons. I measured a spare one to hold $21\frac{1}{2}$ gallons. The fermenting capacity allowed was 16 and 24 jars of 20 gallons each, which at 20 seers each would give 60 distillations per month, using 30 maunds of molasses and producing 90 gallons London-proof spirit. The man has actually got 15 jars only, of which I measured one (inclined) to hold 12 gallons. The Deputy Collector says the still takes the place of the Bagnan shop only, which took from the distillery $212\frac{1}{4}$ gallons actual liquor (not London-proof) in the year 1886-87. The Deputy Collector says that he reduced the number of jars in the cold weather to 16, but that the reduction in size is the man's own doing; that the Board has recently ordered that the fluid capacity of the fermenting jars be reduced from four times to three times the measure of material. I tested liquor of which the man produces two kinds only.

Sample No.	Price.	U. P.
1.	6 to 8 annas	28·4
2.	10 „	14·5

The outstill accounts show :—

		Molasses used. Mds.	s.	Outturn. Gals.	Bots.	Sale. Gals.	Bots.
April	1887	26	0	88	3	79	4
May	„	29	0	103	3	101	5
June	„	30	20	102	2	111	0
July	„	30	20	114	4	85	3
August	„	12	20	45	0	66	3
September	„	24	0	86	3	91	4
October	„	26	0	91	0	85	4
November	„	18	0	71	1	57	3
December	„	17	0	75	2	83	4
		213	20	778	0	763	0

Examination of Nondo Lal Shaha, Gomashta.—I am not related to Modhoo Soodon Shaha the license-holder.

I use in each jar	Molasses	20	seers.
	Water	32	„
	Spent wash	4	„
	Total	56	„ = 14 gallons.

[*Memorandum.*—The jar holds only 12 gallons].

Fermentation takes now from 12 to 14 days; in hot weather from 8 to 9. I do not use more liquid in cold weather. I only make the two liquors I have shown. About three quarters of my sales are of the cheaper and one quarter of the dearer liquor. Distillation takes, from first lighting the fire till the liquor is all out, about three hours. I use *kootra* or *chita goor*, date sugar, costing Rs. 3-8 per maund. My principal customers are among the lower classes—Keyoras, Doolees, &c. Half of them drink on the premises, half take liquor home. A few of them drink the better liquor. The better classes do not come to the shop, but send for their liquor. A very few prostitutes come for liquor, no other women, and no boys. We fumigate with straw only, using no drugs. We have no water in the receiver.

Examination of Baboo Hem Chunder Ghose, landowner, resident here. Well known to me as member of the District Board.—There has always been a liquor shop here. This year an outstill has been newly opened. Liquor is much cheaper now—three, four, and six annas the bottle, and I have heard eight annas. I have heard the price from the palkee-bearers and others. The men who buy the cheap liquor tell me it increases the heat of the body, burns the stomach, and causes an unpleasant burning in mouth. The price before was Re. 1-2 per bottle. I believe that now three-fourths of the males of all classes drink liquor, besides a few women who are not prostitutes, a few even of the higher classes. I should say that not more than a fourth of the people drank before. My servants have become drunkards, and I have turned off fourteen or fifteen of them in consequence—ten of them this year. If they drank before, it was secretly. They cannot conceal it now. One of my men, Troilokhya Behara, always drank, but since the outstill has been opened, he has been drinking so much that he was ill for a month. The wives of Shiboo, Troilokhya, Kashee, Odyit, Golam, Beharas, came to me weeping and complaining that their husbands took away the rice to the shop and bought liquor, and that the children had nothing to eat. Chinta Behara's daughter also said her husband had got mad with drink and run away. These people all live close here. In Chandpoor village Koilash Pal's son and his brother got drunk and danced naked. The former has died of drink. I do not know whether he drank before the outstill was opened or not. In most of the villages about here there are complaints of distress on account of drink. The man earns three annas a day and the woman two annas, and this has to feed from five to seven people. Now none of the man's three annas goes to food, but all to drink. I have myself questioned the women in many villages. Men's wages are now paid to their wives to prevent their going in drink. There was nothing of this sort before the outstill was opened. I know of no increase in thefts. I now see ten or twelve people drunk on the road daily, since the outstill was opened, I have seen people drunk on the road before, but not so many. I know of no drunken men trespassing into *barees*. About five or six months ago I heard a woman screaming, went to the place, and saw a Mahomedan drunk, tumbling into the water. She said he had seized her by the arm, and had fallen when she freed herself from him. Boys of the Behara caste drink, and some school-boys of 12 or 14. I have not seen it. I have no suspicion of the existence of secret shops for retail sale in the mofussil. I know liquor used to come across from Midnapore, but not very much. I heard the price at Khola was eight annas. My bearers bought some there when travelling with me.

29th January 1888, BAGNAN.

Examination of Ram Shodoy Roy Choudhoree, Administrator of the Seal's estate here.—I have been here about a month. I have many villages about here. I have heard there is distress in families on account of drinking, but no women have come complaining to me. I have heard that the number of petty fruit thefts has increased.

Examination of Umbica Churn Mitra, Kayasth, aged 39, *Naib of Seal's estate*—I have been here four years. Owing to the cheapness of liquor there has been great increase in drinking since the outstill was opened. I hear much more noise night and day among the Doolee Kahars who live near me. I see tipsy people on the road frequently now, and never before. Those who drank did so secretly. I see no women drunk. I see boys of 10, 12, and 14 of the Behara class drunk. I have seen this with my own eyes ten or fifteen times. No boys of the higher classes. I have heard of no increase in thefts, nor of outrages on women, nor of trespassing into *barees*. In two or three cases I have heard of distress in families on account of drink. I never heard such complaints before the outstill was opened. People could not purchase liquor so cheap before.

Examination of Oomesh Chunder Mozoomdar, aged 21, *head-master of the school.*—I have been master of this school for two months only. It is a higher class English school. I have known no case of drunkenness among the boys since I came. There are nearly a hundred boys. I never smelt or suspected any of them.

Examination of Sarat Chunder Ghose, aged 16.—I live in Hem Baboo's house. Five or six months ago about seven in the evening I saw Koilash Pal Kayasth's son dancing naked, drunk, with six or seven others who were also drunk, but not naked, by the Thakoorbaree in the middle of the village, while Dhorma *pooja* was going on. It was in the sight of many women, who went away. The youth is dead; he died a month or so after of cholera after drinking outstill liquor. In previous years he drank occasionally, principally *taree*. He drank more this year. His father is naib of an estate at Joypoor, about six miles from here. His age was about 21. His name was Kishoree Mohun Pal. He was at Bagnan school, but left long ago. I see tipsy men whenever I go on the road. I saw some, but few, before this year.

Examination of Troilokhya Bearer, aged 35.—(The man of whom Baboo Hem Chondro Ghose spoke.) I serve Hem Baboo. I drink liquor. The liquor now is burning. It costs four, six, and eight annas. We drink the two cheaper kinds. When we get more pice, we drink the better. We used to get shop liquor at Re. 1-2 and Re. 1-4 the bottle. Two men can get drunk off a bottle of the six-anna liquor, and one off the four-anna liquor. Of the shop liquor four, five, and six people could get drunk. We drink more now. Our women do not drink. Our boys of 10 or 12 drink. The present liquor burns more inside The smell tends to produce vomiting. Since I drank outstill liquor, I have had pains in my chest and stomach.

Examination of Ogor Chondro Nondee, aged 42, *shopkeeper.*—I sell salt, cloth, &c. I have always lived here. I never drink liquor. I see men drunk going along on the road before my shop. I see no women nor people of the better classes among them, but I see boys of 10 or 12. There is a daily market here. I see some people tipsy daily, sometimes two or three, sometimes ten or twelve. When there was a shop I never saw any—not only a few, but none.

Examination of Bonomalee Rokhit, Tamboolee, aged 58.—I have had a shop here for eight years. I see eight or ten people drunk every day on the road. No women among them, but the prostitutes who live in the bazar get drunk in the evening. I often see boys of the Beharas drunk. Among those drunk, I see people of the higher classes, Kayasths, Baboos. Before the outstill was here, I never once saw people drunk in the bazar.

Examination of Madhob Behara.—I drink liquor. I pay six annas for a bottle; never less; never four annas. It used to be eight annas, but for three months has been six annas. The shop liquor used to cost Re. 1-4 per bottle. The former liquor was good. This is bad; it makes the body burn, and produces illness. Three men can get drunk off one bottle of six-anna liquor. The eight-anna was of the same strength. I cannot say about the shop liquor, for I did not drink it. I used to drink *taree*, but do not do so now. Other Beharas who used to drink *taree* have left it off and taken to country liquor (*mod*). Our women do not drink. Our little boys do when they can.

Examination of Jodoonath Ghosh, Native Doctor.—I have been here for seven years. I see many more people drunk than I did before the outstill was opened. I used to see two or three low caste people tipsy before, but now whenever I come here, every three or four days, I see ten or twelve drinking at the outstill in the shop, on the bench. I did not see it before. I see no women, but I see boys from 14 to 16 drinking. I live one mile south of this at Gobordhonpoor. (Deponent gives instances of drunkenness.) I know a case four or five months ago, a Mahomedan woman, a girl, not married, a widow aged 20 or 25, was seized and pulled by a drunken man; when people came he let her go. It was about eleven o'clock in the day, the woman told me. I do not know her name. She comes to beg. I have never treated any one for illness produced by drink. Koilash Pal's son died of cholera. I heard he had been drinking the day before.

Examination of Thakoor Chander Ghose, aged 41, *Pandit of the intermediate school at Baraberiya.*—There are 37 or 38 boys in the school. None of them drink but one, aged 9 or 10. He got drunk, as I have heard, about a month ago. I expelled him. He has gone to another school. I have never smelt or suspected any other boy.

As I was leaving Bagnan, Baboo H. C. Ghose and the Seal's manager came to me and said they wished to speak much more strongly than they had

of the evil caused by the outstill; that respectable people were in terror of the depravation of their children, and that the ryots spent so much money in liquor as to impair their power of paying rent. I believe both these men to be quite uninfluenced by the Indian Association. On the 30th January 1888, I rode along the Amta road to Fatihpoor bazar, where there used to be a liquor shop, and is now a *taree* shop, paying, I was told, Rs. 29 per month as tax. Twenty or thirty people collected about me, and were evidently not prepared for my visit, and I think answered my questions fairly. The outstill liquor is obtained from Amta at from six to eight annas the bottle, whereas the shop liquor used to sell at Re. 1, Re. 1-2, Re. 1-4 the bottle. Those who used to drink *taree* now drink spirits, though I gathered that many of the Mahomedans still drink *taree*. Those who used to drink liquor now drink more on account of its cheapness, and others, who never drank before, have taken to it. People are not seen drunk here, but at the outstill, though many bring liquor home for their own consumption. I could not hear of liquor being brought for sale. No women, except prostitutes, drink, with the exception of a very small quantity taken as medicine. Boys do not drink, but they would if they could get the pice. I heard much of people drinking two or three pice worth of liquor, and it is clear that it is sold in much less quantities than a bottle. The outstill liquor is weaker than the shop liquor, and whereas four men could get drunk off a bottle of the latter, only two or three and those inexperienced drinkers could get drunk off a bottle now. The new liquor, however, stinks, produces nausea (*hákál máre*), is *kutcha* liquor, very inferior, but there is no suspicion of drugs. It gives a much worse headache. The shop liquor was very superior. All classes drink more, but there are not many of the Baboo class here. All the people were speaking very freely, as not knowing or caring whether there was any particular thesis to uphold, a Mahomedan and a Keyora being the chief speakers, when a fellow, who evidently bore a grudge against the outstill, came bawling out that all the children were being depraved, and the village ruined. I asked him who he was, and he admitted, with some abatement of his energy, and some reluctance, that he was a Soonree, upon which I laughed, and the audience thought it a capital joke. He was doubtless interested in the former shop. This conversation took place at the *taree* shop, at the entrance to the place. I went on to where the shops are, and questioning the shopkeepers, collected another group, whose evidence tallied with all that I had just heard. There is more drinking now, but not more visible drunkenness than formerly. I think the result of this visit affords really valuable evidence of the facts. The place is three or four miles from Amta, to which I proceeded. The outstill at Amta is situate on the road from the ferry ghát to the bazar, where there is more traffic probably than anywhere else in Amta. It has taken the place of shops which in 1886-87 took 366 gallons of liquor from the distillery. The book showed :—

30th January 1888, FATIHPOOR.

AMTA.

		Molasses used.	Outturn.	Sales.
		Mds. seers.	Gals. bots.	Gals. bots.
April 1887	... ...	52 20	199 3	137 3
May „	... ...	59 10	185 3	234 1
June „	... ...	64 20	158 2	141 1
July „	... ...	53 10	157 4	139 1
August „	... ...	39 0	141 0	124 1
September „	... ...	40 20	140 2	160 3
October „	... ...	51 0	162 4	187 5
November „	... ...	49 20	176 1	160 1
December „	... ...	35 20	122 4	125 3
Total	...	445 0	1,443 5	1,410 1

The estimated local demand was 100 gallons London-proof. A 30-gallon still was allowed, and 20 or 30 jars of 20 gallons, giving 75 jars per month, which should ferment 37½ maunds of molasses, and yield 112½ gallons London-proof.

30th January 1888. AMTA.

I tested the liquor—

Sample No.	Price.			
1.	10 annas ...	in jar	...	17·1° below proof.
2.	8 „ ...	„ cask	...	38·1° „
3.	6 „ ...	„ bottle	...	48·° „
4.	4 „ ...	„ jar	...	56·6° „

I found 30 jars all of a size and measured one (inclined) to contain 19 gallons. There is no spare still to measure, but I should judge the one in use to hold from 25 to 0 gallons The Deputy Collector says that this neighbourhood used to get liquor from an outstill at Gurh Bhowanipoor in Jahanabad sub-division, which has been closed, and replaced by one at Seebpoor.

Examination of Kartik Chunder Shaha, Soonree, the distiller.—The license is in my name. I have no partner. I pay Rs. 200 tax monthly. I keep only the four kinds of liquor which have been tested. About $\frac{3}{16}$ths of my sales are at 4 annas, $\frac{3}{16}$ths at 6, $\frac{5}{16}$ths at 8, and $\frac{5}{16}$ths at 10 annas. About $\frac{4}{16}$ths of the liquor is drunk here, and $\frac{12}{16}$ths taken away. Most of that drunk here is priced at four and six annas. I put in each jar—

Molasses	30	seers.
Spent wash	10 to 15	„
Water	15	„
Total ...	55 to 60	seers = 15 gallons

I use *kootra* or *chita goor* (date molasses), costing from Rs. 2-12 to Rs. 3-4 the maund. I also use about one seer of *bhelee goor* (hard cane sugar). I use no *bakor*. I fumigate the jars without using any drug. Fermentation takes from fourteen to fifteen days now, and in the hot weather from six to eight. In the cold weather if the *goor* is thick (*ghanna*), I use more water. Distillation from first to last takes from three to three and-a-half hours. I get more from the higher than the lower classes. Some Mahomedans drink, most of them taking liquor home. Some Baboos drink here secretly at night, but most of them have their liquor at home. Prostitutes send for their liquor. No other women drink; nor boys. I take no goods in exchange for liquor; nothing but money. I put no water in the receiver. People do not lie drunk on the road here. I hear they do so further on. My father used to keep the liquor shop here. We had it for thirty or thirty-two years. Liquor used to be sold at Re. 1 or Re. 1-2 the bottle. Many more people drink now.

Examination of Jogendra Narayan Bose, aged 50, *a vakeel of the Moonsiff's court.*—I live at Jogotbollobhpoor I have worked here for nearly thirty years. I see many people going along the road drunk. I hear Dumpodar women drink. I have never seen women drunk on the road. I have seen boys of the higher classes, twelve or thirteen years of age, drunk on the road twenty or twenty-five times. I do not know that tipsy people were seen on the road before; they now pass my house from this; the shop was in another direction. I see people of both the higher and lower classes drunk. The former are Brahmans, Kayasths, and the like. Most of them are youths from 16 to 25, but I also see Baboos of from 35 to 40 drunk on the road. More of them drink now than used to. People are seen lying on the road and in the ditches. I have seen five or six cases, both Baboos and low caste people. About half of the Baboos drink now. I should say that only two-sixteenths or three-sixteenths did so before. I never drink. I hear that the liquor now is bad, as if it were drugged; that people get quickly drunk on it. I know of no increase in the number of thefts, nor of trespassing, nor of outrages on women. Those who have taken to drink will drink even if the price be raised. They will steal to drink.

Examination of Narayon Chandro Chatterjee, aged 21, *head-master of the higher class English school.*—There are 150 boys in the school. I have been here only since June last. I was never under-master in a school. None of the boys drink liquor. I have no suspicion of any of them. My home is two miles from this at Ghazeepoor. Before the outstill was opened there were only three or four drunkards in the village; now there are 40. There are many petty thefts which are not reported to the police. The three or four who used to drink were Baboos. The forty who drink now are Baboos and Ganddhabaniks, traders, Koiborttos. Lower class people are not given to drinking; they only drink *taree*. I do not know of any *taree* drinkers who have taken to spirits. No women drink, nor boys of 10 or 12, but lads of 18 to 20 do drink; one of 13 or 14 drinks, a Brahman boy; he has drunk for a year. He used to drink *taree*, but his father did not know it. He drinks outstill liquor now whenever he can get pice. I have seen him drunk three or four times. He was for a year in a pathsala, but was never at school. A canoe

was stolen. I do not know by whom. I have heard women of Bagdees in Ghazipoor quarrelling with their husbands on account of the amount of money spent in drink, and lack of food. In several cases *pân* has been stolen from the fields. The party of the drunkards is too strong for people to give information. I know of no cases of outrages on women. 30th January 1888. AMTA

Examination of Oghornath De, Teelee, aged 34, *pleader in the Moonsiff's court.*—I have been here for six or seven years. My home is at Rampoor, eight or nine miles north of this. I have noticed much drunkenness, people lying about drunk (gives instances). The drunkenness was confined to the higher classes before, but since the outstill was opened people of the lower orders have taken to it on account of the cheapness. Those who now drink liquor did not drink *taree*; it is somewhat hateful to them. I think some of the lower classes who used to drink *taree* have taken to spirits. I know nothing of women drinking; boys of the beggar classes I have seen drunk on the road; boys aged 14 or 15 and more, but not boys of 10 or 12. I hear there was much drinking at the Fatih Alee *Jât* near Moonsheerhat in Pos. A special shop was opened there. I know of no distress among families.

Examination of Norendro Nath Mitro, a Kayasth, aged 35, *pleader.*—I have been here nearly fifteen years. I live at Raootara, six miles west from here, two or three miles from Bhatra. I know of a Haree near my village being drowned while he was drunk, three or four months ago, having got liquor from here. I have seen a woman being taken home drunk—very drunk—by two men, six months ago, here in Amta. I do not think she was a respectable person. Do not know whether she was a prostitute or not. I see youths of from 14 to 16 drink, but not boys of 10 to 12. I hear when I go home to my village, twice or thrice in the month, that Harees, and low people who used to take *taree*, now take spirits. I have not heard of persons previously sober taking to drink. I do not hear of drinking among women, nor of families in distress through drink.

Examination of Kedarnath Ghose, Kayasth, aged 27, *school teacher.*—I live in Amta village. I see much drunkenness. I see boys of seven or eight drunk, and women, Dompodars and prostitutes. No other women. People used to get drunk before, but not so frequently. I am a teacher in the English school. I do not see the boys drink, but they use *ganja*. I have had cocoanuts stolen. Thefts used to occur before, but not so many as now.

Examination of Boikunto Nath Ghose, a Kayasth, aged 65.—My son is a clerk in Messrs. Turner, Morrison and Company's office. There has been an increase in drinking among the lower classes, but not among the higher. No *taree* drinkers have taken to drinking spirits. I live in Amta. There were always drunkards in Amta. There are not more now. I drink liquor myself. The outstill liquor costs eight annas. The shop liquor used to cost Re. 1 and Re 1-2 the bottle. People drink more since it is cheap. The liquor is no better or worse than before. Three or four men can get drunk off one bottle, just as they could before. No women drink. There are not many people seen drunk on the roads in my *para*. I never fell drunk on the road. There are many who drink moderately daily without getting drunk. I am *gooroo* to all of them, and get pice and spirits from them. (Deponent appears a respectable old man. The pleaders present appear to object to his evidence.)

Examination of Mahindi Doolee Behara, aged 30.—I live at Raspoor, a mile north of this. I drink liquor at eight or four annas the bottle, according as my employers give me pice. I sometimes drink here, sometimes take liquor home. I drink from four to eight pice worth. I never take home less than half a bottle. I used to drink shop liquor which cost Re. 1. Four or five people would get drunk on a bottle of it, and the same number can get drunk on outstill liquor. There is no difference. The liquor at eight annas is as good as before; that at four and six annas is *noongra* (not clear) and weak, but not otherwise bad. It has a smell *hákál bodh rákhe*. Produces a feeling of nausea. People do not get ill from it. None of our women or boys drink.

Examination of Radha Nath Bagdee.—I live here and drink occasionally, liquor costing eight and four annas the bottle. The former price was one rupee. The present liquor is inferior, weaker, and bitter. Four people could get drunk off a bottle before; only three now. It has no bad smell. No Bagdee women drink.

The Deputy Collector wishes to go to Hooghly, and will not be at Majoo, so I note the following respecting the outstill there. It was opened in October. No local demand was estimated. It was intended to have outstills at Bhatrá and Hât Bowreah, but none were opened at those places, and on petition of a distiller one was allowed at Majoo. The arrangement was made from the Howrah office, and the Excise Deputy Collector knows nothing of the allowance. He thinks the allowance made for Hât Bowreah was allowed at Majoo. There was a shop at Majoo only in 1886-87, which took 219 gallons of liquor from the distillery. On the 31st January I remained at Amta, bringing up correspondence, and walking in the bazar and neighbourhood, morning and evening, making inquiries. On the 1st February I rode to Majoo, seven miles. On the way I visited the *taree* shop at Gooshtiya, and talked to various people there and on the road. They were principally Mahomedans. The first group said that nothing but *taree* was drunk, and that it did not produce intoxication. The next group also said that nothing but *taree* was drunk, but while I was 1st February 1888 GOOSHTIYA

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GOOSHTIYA.

talking to them a man called out that there was much that was wrong (*anyay*) from drunkenness On further questioning it appeared that the drunkenness spoken of was produced from *taree*. It appeared as though a lesson had been imperfectly learnt. I doubt there being much drunkenness in this neighbourhood. A Baboo whom I met, and who followed me, taking much interest in my inquiries, made the usual general statement of villages ruined and boys taking to drinking.

MAJOO.

Liquor is said to cost a rupee for three bottles. At Majoo I found the representative of the Indian Association, who preceded me the day before yesterday. The outstill is by the side of the cart road, on which there is much traffic, and only a hundred yards from the bazar, where there is a daily market. The license is in the name of Rakha. Chondro Shaha, son of Modhoo Soodon Shaha. His monthly fee is Rs. 100, According to the sign-board there should be 24 jars of one maund, or ten gallons each. I found no mention of still capacity. The Gomashta says one maund, and that there is no difference in the number of jars in hot or cold season. The books show :—

	Molasses used.	Outturn.	Sales.
	Md. s.	Gals bots.	Gals. bots.
October 26th to 31st 1887 ...	1 0	3 4¾	7 0
November	13 0	56 3	48 4¾
December	15 0	56 2	58 5¼
January 1888	20 10	101 0¼	86 4¾
	49 10	217 4	201 2¾

I find 23 jars. The still is earthen, of the same size, not working. I measured a jar (inclined) to contain 11½ gallons, none contain more than 10 gallons. I tested liquor.

	Price.		
Sample No. 1.	8 annas ...	in jar ...	14·9 below proof.
„ „ 2.	5 „ ...	„ ...	23 1 „

Examination of Mahendra Nath Shaha, Gomashta—Rakhal is my *kootoomb*, but no relation. I have only these two kinds of liquor I only sell at eight and five annas, none at ten annas. I sell $\frac{6}{16}$ths at 8 annas and $\frac{10}{16}$ths at 5 annas. The latter is both drunk here and taken away, $\frac{12}{16}$ths drunk here and $\frac{4}{16}$ths taken away. All classes drink. Baboos drink here, Brahmans and Kayasths. The low class people are Keyoras and Doolees. Koibortos and Sodgops drink. Musulmans do not. The lower classes take away five annas liquor. None of the eight annas liquor is taken away. No women drink, nor boys. The material I put into each jar is :—

Molasses	10 seers.
Water	14 „
Spent wash	6 „
Total ...	30 seers, or 7½ gallons.

[*Memo.*—There are nearly ten gallons in each jar].

The molasses is from the date. I get it from Calcutta ; the sugar is not extracted. (I examined a sample of the molasses, and it appears to be the case that the sugar is not extracted. This costs Rs. 3-5 the maund. Hard sugar (*bhelee goor*) is used with it, half a seer. It costs Rs. 4 the maund. There are not many people who get drunk. They do not lie on the road drunk. Fermentation takes eight days, distillation three hours. I fumigate with straw only.

Examination of Shoorap Nath Bhatabyal, Brahman, aged 35, teacher in school.—I have been here three years. It is a higher class English school. There are nearly 150 boys on the roll ; none of them, so far as I know, drink. I lodge with the secretary, nearly a mile from here. The school is there also. I hear from reliable sources that drunkenness has increased, but have seen nothing. Have not seen people drunk in the village.

1st February 1888. MAJOO.

Examination of Saroda Prosad Boshoo, a Kayasth.—I deal in gold and silver. I am secretary to the school. I hear nothing of boys in the school drinking, nor of women doing so. Petty thefts of fruit, &c., have increased this year. My cocoanuts and *sukaloos* have been stolen, and so have other people's. Thefts are more numerous than they used to be. Some people in my village of both higher and lower classes drink, but not many, about $\frac{1}{16}$th to $\frac{2}{16}$ths of the households. Drinking has increased because liquor has become cheaper. I do not know the present or former price. Drunken people are seen in the village and on the road, both my co-villagers and strangers. I never come on the big road. There is a path through the village on which drunken people are seen every three or four days. They do not fall down. They go unsteadily. They do not sing.

Examination of Bhoot Nath Keyora, aged 35, *keeper of taree shop.*—I drank the liquor at this outstill twice, and was ill, my body burned, my bowels were disordered. I drank two annas worth of liquor each time, a quarter of a bottle. I drank half a bottle in two days. I sell *taree* by measure, eight pice, four pice, and two pice. For eight pice I sell about a seer. Most *taree* is drunk from Boisakh to Ashwin. I am losing by it. I paid a monthly fee of Rs. 12, both this year and last.

Examination of Dinoo, Doolee bearer, aged 70.—I live at Nulta Gobindpoor, four miles from here. The liquor here is good. It cost eight annas per bottle. I drink it here, eight pice worth, measured by a *shisha*. The shop liquor used to be good. The liquor now is better. The shop liquor cost Re. 1. I did not drink at the shop. I used to take a bottle or half a bottle home with me. The outstill liquor is clear, has no smell, does not produce illness. None of our women drink, nor boys.

Examination of Gopal Chunder Ghose, a Kayasth, aged 24, *medical man.*—I have had a dispensary here for two years in the bazar. I only spend seven or eight nights here in the month. Do not always hear drunken noise in the night, but sometimes only during the last four or five months, since the outstill was opened. I did not observe it before. I sometimes see people drunk in the day time. I never see women drunk. I see boys of 12, 14, and 16. I have two or four times seen boys of 12 drunk, both of the lower and higher classes. I do not know their names. I live in Bamonpara, a mile away from this. In that village I see many people drunk of all classes, some of whom were not known to drink before. I see no one here who has begun drinking. Lately Oopendro Nath Surkar, aged 16, is one; he has land. He has no father, but an elder brother, named Bholanath Surkar. Bholanath drinks, and drank before, but now drinks more. I cannot name any one else who has taken to drink lately. I have heard Mohesh Mochee got drunk here in the bazar, but cannot say whether he drank before or not. I hear Bagdee families in Bamonpara are in distress on account of money spent on drink. During the last two or three months only I have heard it from the talk of women in the village. Not from the women themselves. I have heard it from the Bagdinee women themselves. I have twice seen school-boys of Gooshte taking liquor home, whether for their own drinking or not I cannot say. I saw them coming out of the shop with something concealed under their clothes. They are Koiborttos. I do not know their names. I know of cases of dysentery and diarrhœa caused by drinking. The patients told me it was from drinking. Shorjya Koomar Mondol of Pakpara, aged 16 or 17, was one of them. There was no one else.

Examination of Piyaree Choudro Goopta, head-master of the higher class English school.—There are 150 boys on the roll. I heard yesterday that some boys are being initiated into drinking at a gymnastic party—I do not know in whose house—fifteen or twenty boys. I hear they play ground-play and bar-play, not horse-play. I never witnessed it, but heard of it. I came here last July only. I never smelt liquor on any of the boys. I have heard what I say from the local teachers, none of whom are here present.

Examination of Sharoda Prosad Chuckerbutty, priest, aged 45.—My sugarcane and cocoanuts have been stolen. Do not know by whom. Last year thefts were not so common. They have increased in number. I live in Middle Majoo. Every eight or ten days I see a Keyora or a Bagdee drunk. The houses near mine are occupied by Brahmans and Kayasths. They do not drink: at least I do not see them. A boy once told me his father drank, and that there was no food in the *baree*. He was a Bagdee. I do not know his name. I know nothing of women drinking, nor boys of 10 or 12.

Examination of Gopal Chunder Patak, aged 45, *medical man.*—I do not drink liquor. I see drunken people on the road more than I used to, not falling, nor singing, but drunk. Where I used to see two or one before, I now see four or five. Liquor is cheaper now—eight annas the bottle: formerly Re. 1. The drinkers are from a distance. I never see women drunk, nor boys of 10 or 12. I know Mohesh Mochee. I remember his being drunk and making a disturbance. He used to drink before.

Examination of Mohesh Mochee, aged 35, *drunkard.*—I am a drummer. I have drunk liquor for the last twenty years. The liquor of the still is of just the same quality as that of the shop—good and clear. We get no illness from drinking it; there is no bad smell in the eight annas liquor. I do not drink the cheaper liquor. The outstill has been opened four months. I was away while the shop was closed here. I do not know where people got liquor from then. Our women do not drink, nor our boys.

Examination of Kedarnath Bhatacharjya, aged 35, *Brahman, Poojaree.*—I live at Goorool, a mile from here. I never drink. Some of the people in my village drink; ten or fifteen people. There are five hundred houses in the village. Seventy or eighty houses are in my *pará*. The drinkers are principally Baboos, Brahmans, and Kayasths. I do not know that they drank before. They have begun to drink within the last three or four months. I

1st February 1888, MAJOO.

do not know why. Boys of 10 or 12 and men up to 40. I cannot give their names. I know them. I do not know of women drinking. Thefts have increased in number. My cocoanuts have been stolen. There were thefts before. They have been more numerous within the last three or four months.

Examination of Nebaran Haik, aged 30, *shop-keeper.*—I see more people drunk—about half as many again as there used to be. No women, nor boys of 10 or 12, but I do see boys of 16 or 17 drunk.

Examination of Moti Lal Poramanik, aged 45, *barber.*—I live at Joyorampoor, two miles from here. The lower classes drink more since liquor fell from one rupee to eight annas the bottle, and petty thefts of plantains and the like have become very common. Koibortto women drink, and make a noise in their *barees*. A boy of 12 has been seen to drink. His name is Hari Sona, and he is a Koibortto. I have seen him drunk three or four times.

2nd February, JOGOTBOLLOBHPOOR.

On the same day I rode on to Jogotbollobhpoor, six miles, but got no information on the way, the people being too much excited by a festival that was going on for quiet conversation. On the 2nd February I visited Jogotbollobhpoor outstill. It is situated at the place where the main road to Amta crosses the Kana Nuddee by a bridge. The place is not crowded with huts, and it is at some distance from the bazar. The books show—

		Molasses used.	Outturn.	Sale.
		Mds. s.	Gals. bots.	Gals. bots.
April	1887	31 20	115 3	98 2½
May	„	42 0	172 1	171 4
June	„	51 0	203 0	142 4½
July	„	22 20	73 4½	127 5
August	„	Not recorded.	57 2	66 2
September	„	20 10	68 5	75 0
October	„	25 20	95 0	87 5
November	„	12 30	56 5	68 3
December	„	26 10	131 4	88 2
January	1888	31 20	147 4	150 4
	Total ...	263 10	1,121 4	1,077 1

The Deputy Collector states that the local demand was estimated to be 100 gallons London-proof monthly; that the licensee was allowed a still of 30 gallons, and 20 and 30 fermenting jars of 20 gallons each. There are 17 jars, of which I measured one to contain (inclined) 20 gallons. The still (earthen) measures 31 gallons. The sign-board shows 20 jars only, with no indication of change in the number according to the season The restrictions would have allowed 20 seers to each distillation, and 37½ maunds in the month. By using 30 seers this has been evaded, but the number of distillations has been small. I tested the liquor—

Sample No.	Price.		
1.	8 and 10 annas	... in jar	... 13·1° under proof.
2.	8 and 10 „	... in cask	... 17·6° „
3.	6 „	... „	... 27·9° „

The name of the licensee is Soorjyo Kumar Shaha. The monthly fee is Rs. 200.

Examination of Kedarnath Shaha, Gomasta.—I am not related to licensee, who has no partner. The partners are Madhoo Soodan Shaha and Krishna Chondro Shaha and Beharee Lal Shaha. I put into each jar—

Molasses	...	...	...	...	30 seers.
Water	...	...	...	...	40 „
Spent wash	...	...	...	...	10 „
			Total	...	80 seers, or 20 gallons.

The molasses is (*chita goor*) date sugar. I put a seer or a seer and-a-quarter of hard sugar (*bhelee goor*) with it. The *chita goor* generally comes from Calcutta, but is sometimes got here. The sugar (*chinee*) has been extracted (shows treacle). I have only two kinds of liquor, and sell an equal quantity of each. I sell sometimes at five annas, never at four annas. Most of the liquor is taken away and not drunk here $\frac{10}{16}$ths is taken away $\frac{6}{16}$ths drunk here. Both qualities are drunk here. Those who drink here belong principally to the lower classes—Bagdees, Doolees, Keyoras, not Mahomedans. Each man drinks a quarter or half of a bottle; not less than half a bottle is taken way. As much as six bottles are taken, not for sale. I know of no shop in the mofussil

People do not fall drunk on the road. No women come for liquor. There are no prostitutes here. No little boys drink. The shop which was here before did not belong to any of our present owners.

Examination of Nob Pashee, Oorya, keeper of taree shop.—I have had a *taree* shop here for many years. The shop is in the name of Ebadashee, my brother. Most of my customers are Mahomedans, but Keyoras and other Hindoos also drink, Koiborttos, Kayasths, Brahmans, Napits, Doolees, Bagdees, Rojoks. I sell by measure. (I measured his pots as follows) :—

The pot marked	1	pice	measured	9	to the gallon.
„	2	„	„	7	„
„	3	„	„	5	or little more.
„	4	„	„	4	
„	6	„	„	$2\frac{2}{3}$	
„	8	„	„	$1\frac{1}{2}$	

A strong drinker will get well drunk off eight pice. This year I have reduced these prices by half since the outstill was opened, because many of my customers now drink outstill liquor Most *taree* drinking is done in Choitro or Boisakh, because the days are then getting hot Those who drink *taree* do not all get drunk.

Examination of Narayan Ghose, Sadgop, aged 35, *keeps a shop across the bridge in sight of the outstill.*—I see only a few people drunk, not every day—from ten to twenty-five in a month. I see no women nor boys drunk. There is now about double the drinking there used to be. Less than double. Suppose $\frac{4}{16}$ths of the people drank before, $\frac{8}{16}$ths drink now. I never saw any one fall or lie on the road drunk.

Examination of Gholab Khan, Mussulman, tailor, living next door to last witness.—I have had my shop here for three years. There are not many more drunken people seen here than there were—about half as many more. I drink neither *taree* nor spirits I see neither women nor boys drunk. People fall on the road occasionally, not every month, but one after two or one months. People of higher and lower classes fall on the road. I do not stop here at night. I live near the thanna. I do not hear singing and noise at night. Only two or one people are seen drunk in a month—not ten people.

Examination of Romjan Ali, shop-keeper, living on the road.—I see three or four people drunk on the road in a month. Thirty or thirty-five in a month; on some days three or four; some days none. I sleep here. I have seen five or six people fall on the road since the still was opened. Drunken people are more numerous, but not double what they were. I see no women or boys drunk.

[*Memo.*—These last three witnesses have their shops on the road within sight of the outstill, and of the *taree* shop, which is next door to it, and must see all that is going on. I visited them in their shops, and they had evidently no expectation of being questioned, and appeared willing to speak the truth.]

Examination of Priyonath Mitro, Kayasth, aged 24, *head-master of the higher class English school.*—I came here in December last. I never was master, head or under, in any school before. There are nearly 200 boys in the school. I have no reason to suspect any of them of drinking, nor of using *ganja*. I see people of the lower classes drunk on the road, and hear them making a noise once a week or a little oftener—not twice a week. I never see women among them. I see boys of the lower classes of 13 or 14 years of age, not younger, drunk occasionally. I hear from others of boys drinking. I go to my home at Seetapoor, a mile off, every day. The people of my village are principally of the lower classes. Drunkenness has increased among them, but not very much. I hear wine is cheaper, but do not know the price. I never drink or smoke. I should say that one person in every three households of the lower classes drinks. There has been very little increase in the number of those who drink, but considerable increase in the quantity of liquor drunk. I know nothing of their women drinking, but their boys do. I do not find that there has been increase in drinking among the higher classes. There are many houses of such people, but most of the men are in Calcutta. I have no suspicion of drinking among the women in the higher classes. They will fly from the sight of a bottle of wine. There is no drinking among little boys. I see Baboos under thirty years of age on their way from Calcutta, especially on Saturday, drink at the outstill and then go home. I see this daily. I hear of no increase in the number of thefts. I hear through women of distress in Bagdee and Doolee families on account of money spent in drink. Not from the women of those families. I have heard of no cases of women being insulted by drunken men, or of trespassing into *barees*.

Examination of Dwarkanath Ghosal, rural sub-registrar.—I have been here two years and-a-half. I lodge here at my office. I see people pass my office drunk now, which I never saw before the outstill was opened. Not every day, but more on occasions of marriages and festivals. I see fifteen or sixteen in the month. I never see people of the better classes, or women or little boys among them. I never heard of insults to women or trespassing into *barees*.

I questioned a number of chowkidars, but got nothing out of them. They appeared afraid to speak the truth.

3rd February 1888, KRISHTO-NOGOR.

The correspondent of the Indian Association here is the same man who wrote the letter from Amta, Oghornath De. On the 3rd February I rode to Krishtonogor, five or six miles. It is a very large village with a police thanna, and a large market every Monday and Friday; a good many shops. The still is on the main road from Jogotbollobhpoor to Tarkeshwar, &c., and about two hundred yards south of the market place. I did not meet many intelligent people on the way, but at one place, Monbatee, I talked to a respectable-looking elderly man, who said that there was no drinking in his village, but that every two or three days query market days?) two or three people of the lower classes are seen drunk coming along the road. That before the Krishtonogor outstill was opened people were seen drunk, but not so many as now. At the outstill the so-called sign-board is only a dirty scrap of paper, and shows 16 jars, not mentioning capacity. I found 15 jars. Measured one (inclined) 17 gallons. The still, earthen, is of the same size. I tested the liquor—

MONBATEE.

KRISHTO-NOGOR.

Sample No.	Price.				
1.	7 to 8 annas	...	... in jar	...	24·3 below proof.
2.	4 to 5 „	...	... „	...	40·5 „
3.	...	...	... „	...	74·5 „

This last sample is poor liquor which is not sold, but put with the wash. The books show—

	Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sale.	
	Mds.	s.	Gals.	bots.	Gals.	bots.
April ...	13	30	.....	836½	.....	736½
May ...	18	1	.....	1,339	.....	1,365½
June ...	23	10	207	4½	198	.....
July ...	16	15	166	.....	163	4½
August ...	15	2	136	3	119	1½
September ...	17	25	134	4½	170	4½
October ...	23	4	219	1½	209	.....
November ...	16	5	128	4½	124	.....
December	19	25	145	.....	138	4½
January ...	17	10	138	4½	153	1½
	180	7	1,669	2	1,627	0

I was specially requested to note that on 23rd June 18 gallons (= 108 bottles) were sold.

Examination of Rakhal Chondro Shaha, gomasta.—The license is in the name of Boikanto Nath Saha, who has no partner. Ganja and opium are also sold here. Besides these two liquors, we sell stronger liquor at nine and ten annas, but have none in stock. $\frac{2}{3}\frac{1}{2}$ of my sales are at four and five annas, $\frac{5}{3}\frac{}{2}$ at seven and eight, $\frac{3}{3}\frac{}{2}$ at nine and ten. The greater part of the liquor is taken away and not drunk here. Very little of the 10-anna liquor is drunk here. The customers for the cheaper liquor are low class people—Bagdees, Doolees, Keyoras. No Mahomedans, nor women, nor little boys. No prostitutes come here for liquor. From half a bottle to six bottles are taken away to drink. I have no suspicion of sales or shops in the mofussil. In each jar I put molasses 15 seers, water 2 *kulshees*, spent wash 2 or 2½ *kulshees*. (Finding each *kulshee* to hold 1⅞ gallon, I find the wash to be—

Molasses	...	...	...	...	15 seers.
Water	...	...	...	...	30 „
Spent wash	...	...	...	...	15 „
			Total	...	60 seers, or 15 gallons.

The molasses is date, the sugar not being extracted, I pay Rs. 5-8 per maund for it. I use a seer or a seer and-a-half of hard sugar (*bhelee goor*), besides the fifteen seers of date molasses. Fermentation takes seven or eight days in cold weather, five or six in hot weather. I make no change in the quantity of fluid according to season. People drink about a quarter of a bottle here. Three men can get drunk off a bottle of eight-anna liquor, and two off the four-anna. People do not fall drunk here at the shop, but further off on the road: two or one will fall drunk in the month.

Examination of Fakeer Bagdee, aged 25.—I live at Jaipara here in Krishtonogor. The former shop liquor was better than it is now. The eight-anna liquor is good; the four-anna liquor is not: drinking it makes one uncomfortable, gives a headache, and thirst ensues. Three men can get drunk off the four-anna liquor. Four off the eight-anna. Four off the previous shop liquor, which used to cost Re. 1, Re. 1-2, Re. 1-4. No Bagdee women drink. Prostitutes do. No little boys drink. I have drunk *taree*. It does not make one uncomfortable. A man can be well drunk off eight pice worth of *taree*. I drink *taree* when I can get it, not spirits. We cannot get *taree* till Choitro or Boisakh; not all the year round.

Examination of Mohesh Keyora, aged 25.—I live here. I drink both spirits and *taree*. I prefer *taree* when I can get it. A man can get drunk off eight pice worth of spirits—not full drunk. One can get well drunk off from eight to twelve annas worth of *taree*. None of our Keyora women drink, nor our boys. I used to drink shop liquor at Re. 1 and Re. 1-4. It was better than the present liquor.

[His statements are confused, but he does not seem to consider the present liquor bad.]

Examination of Shyam Doolee, aged 25.—I live here at Krishtonogor. I drink *taree* when I can get it; spirits when I cannot. A man can get well drunk off six pice worth of *taree*—about a seer and-a-half. Three men can get drunk off a four-anna bottle of spirits. No Doolee women drink. Some boys of ten or twelve drink. I used to drink shop liquor at Re. 1 and Re. 1-4. Six men could get drunk off one bottle. The present liquor gives thirst and headache. The shop liquor did not. I know of no woman being assaulted by drunken men, nor of petty thefts. I never give anything but money for liquor.

Examination of Kajee Irshad Alee, aged 24.—I have land. I live in Krishtonogor. Some Mahomedans here drink both *taree* and spirits. There are about twenty or twenty-five households of them. Men drink in five or seven houses. I have no suspicion of women drinking. Little boys, sons of drunkards, drink. More people drink now since liquor is cheap. *Taree* has also become cheaper. I do not drink spirits nor use *ganja*. My women and children cannot go out for drunken men. They come out if there are no men there. Nawabdee Kalakor of Sreerampoor here, in the month of Pous, had to turn a drunken man out of his house. A drunken man went into his house in the evening. The house is close to the road, and the tipsy man strayed into it, I know not with what object. There have been no thefts in mine or my neighbours' *barees*, but my shoes were stolen last night from outside the mosque, while I was praying. Drunken people make a noise on the road now more than they used to, principally on Mondays and Fridays, market days, but other days also. One Alee Mahomed, aged twenty or twenty-five, has taken to drink. He never drank before. He is drunk every two or three days. No boys of 10 or 12 have taken to drink.

Examination of Sayad Azam Hosen, aged 35, *Maulavee*.—I can read Arabic. I live at Phoolphoola, six miles from here, to the north-east, six miles south of Horipal. There are seven hundred houses of *aymadars*, Mahomedans, there. Few of them drink spirits, but many drink *taree*. We use this market and thana. Many people drink since the outstill was opened, both those who used to drink *taree*, and those who never drank at all, since the liquor became cheap. I hear from my thirty to forty thousand disciples that boys have to be looked after, or they will go and spend in drink the pice their mothers give them for their breakfast at school. I hear that a very few Mahomedan women of the cultivating classes have taken to drink since the outstill was opened, never having drunk before. They do not go to the outstill to drink, but their husbands and fathers-in-law give them liquor, and when they have once tasted it, they crave for it. I am not speaking of loose women. The chowkidars are all drunkards, and all get drunk when they come in to attend at the thana. Thefts have become common. Water-pots are stolen from *barees*. Boys may steal them to sell. I do not know. My best shoes were stolen from the mosque the night before last. Another man's shoes were stolen last night, and I hear seven pairs have been stolen within the last three weeks. I have heard that women who come to the market buy drink, but I do not know of any cases. I know of no insults to women. I have heard that women are insulted, not ravished, but their hands are taken hold of. I hear it generally everywhere. I have heard it has happened in Krishtonogor and Sreerampoor. It happened in Nawabdi's *baree*. A drunken man entered the *baree* and insulted. I do not know what he did, or what the insult was.

Examination of Khetro Mohun Singh Roy, aged 38, *a Khetree*.—I live a mile east from here. Many drink in my village—$\frac{1}{16}$ of the Bagdees, of whom there are 150 houses. I know nothing of their women drinking. Their boys of 10 or 12 drink Rajpoot boys drink. There are five or six houses of Rajpoot cultivators; two or one of their boys drink. The Rajpoots drink, but not their women. Gopal Roy, aged 28, drinks now. He used to drink *taree* before. He gets drunk and falls on the road nearly every market-day. When he drank *taree* it was in his *baree*, where he has *tál* trees of his own. He did not buy *taree*. He has eight or ten beeghas of corn land, and also high land. Before there were not so many people who drank, and those who drank, did not drink so much. Liquor is cheaper now, and so drinking has increased. Those who drank drink more, and others have taken to drink. Boys did not drink before. There is distress for food in Gopal Roy's house. I have heard from everyone that there is similar distress in other households. The number of petty thefts has increased in the village. They were few before. In Ashar I saw a drunken Mahomedan laying hands on women, offering them pice and insult-

3rd February 1888, KRISHTONOGOR.

ing them. I have heard of several cases of drunken men trespassing into *barees* in Krishtonogor; one was Hori Das Banik, who went, when drunk, into a *baree* at the end of Pous and seized a woman, the wife of the owner. He slipped inside while the men of the house were at the outside. They seized him when she called out. They would not complain. The caste is too strong, and there would be too much to pay. The *baree* owner was a Tantee. The caste would fine him. I know of two or three other cases of drunken men going into *barees* and seizing women. These *barees* were all by the roadside. [*Note*—I forgot to ask whether these were single drunken men or parties. I gathered he meant parties.] One *baree* belonged to a Paramanik Soodra Napit, another to a Sootar, Hindoo mistree, a third to a Doctor, a Kormokar, whose serving woman was seized. One Bagdee's wife was seized on the road. All this has happened within two or three months. In all cases women were seized. The Bagdee woman was surrounded by seven drunken men. I heard that they were chowkidars. Some *bhodro lok* rescued her. Bedkanto Baboo here present, and others. I was not an eye-witness of what happened, but saw the man brought in. Petty thefts of rice in the fields and the like are more common this year. Many people were drunk at the Roth festival in Ashar. [*Note.*—This was the 23rd June, when 18 gallons were sold, according to the sale book.]

Examination of Bedkanto Singh, Chetree, aged 32, *zemindar's gomashta.*—I was four ropes away and could not see. I did not come up till I heard people calling out that there was no fear. Six or seven men had seized a woman. All but one of them ran away. He was too drunk to run, and fell as he ran. We seized him. He was a Bagdee chowkidar. We did not bring him to the thanna. We are *bhodro lok*, and it is not our business. The woman was sitting on the ground when I saw her, and the drunken men had hold of her hands and clothes, and she was screaming. I live at Bahighora, a mile from here. Many people drink in my village, but I do not know of women drinking. Those who drink are two or three Rajpoots, and Telees; and I have heard that the Tantees drink. The Brahmans also drink. I have seen them drunk. I suppose they drank before, but we did not see it. I suppose the cheapness of liquor has increased drinking. I hear that liquor now costs four or five annas the bottle and cost formerly Re. 1 and Re 1-4. Some of the drinkers drank *taree* before, but I did not know it. I never saw so many drunk in previous years as I see now. Four drunken Mahomedans went into the *baree* of a Mahomedan tenant of mine and seized the woman. The husband, who was away, complained to me next day. He would not complain at the thanna because of the caste, and I fancy he could not afford to bring a case. When she made a noise they ran away. She recognised them. They all admitted their guilt to me, and said they would not do it again. I can give their names. There have been other cases. In Magh, Krishto Kant Roy, being drunk, began striking with a stick on the door of a house in which a widow lives alone. Her age is thirty-five or forty. She made a noise. The neighbours came, and the drunken man went off, using bad language to her and her rescuers. Three Rakhal boys, aged 10, 11 and 13, who lived in my brother's *baree*, one being a Bagdee, the other two Rajpoots, have taken to drink. The *bhodro lok* used to teach them to read, but they have quite left off learning. At Roshpoor, a mile and-a-half from here, where I have a *golabaree*, I hear from my tenants that there are numerous thefts. I never heard such complaints before. My tenants say that they must go away on accouut of the drunken men. I have twenty or twenty-two houses of tenants. Two or three of them drink, and I hear that their families are distressed for food and clothes.

Examination of Okhoy Koomar Banerjee, aged 35, *homœopathic doctor, correspondent of the Indian Association.*—I live in Jangeerpara of Kristonogor. I see more drunkards since the outstill was opened. I never see women drunk, but I have heard that they drink. I have heard from my friends that women of the lower classes drink. I have seen a boy of 10 or 12 of the potter caste drunk two or three times. He lives half a mile from here. I have heard that the family of a drunken *Doolee-bearer* is distressed. The woman has told me that he took their rice to the outstill for drink. She came begging. She never came before the outstill was opened. Four or five people have come to me with diarrhœa from drinking—Doolees and Bagdees. Also with dysentery, but much less. Such cases occurred before, but not so often. Within three months four or five people have come. They said their bodies burned, and their urine was hot, and they felt sick. As I go about I see daily from one to half a dozen people drunk on the road. Before the outstill was opened I heard that people drank, but never saw them on the road. I never see women drunk on the road. I see boys of 10 or 12 and 14. I have seen two or four such drunk on the road. I wrote the letter to the Indian Association.

Examination of Fakir Chand Choudhoree, a Brahman.—The son-in-law of a Doolee, whose name I forget, wanted to seize the wife of Kedar Bagdee on the road, but she called out, and the villagers came, and he could not seize her. He ran away. I recognised him. It was on the road, not in Kedar's *baree*.

Examination of Amrito Lal Choudhoree, aged 33, *master of middle vernacular school.*—There are 22 or 23 boys. None of them drink liquor. Some who have left the school, aged fourteen and sixteen, have, I hear, taken to drink. I have seen cooly women drunk in the street with their males. No other witnesses have seen that. I have often seen cooly women drunk four or five times within three or four months. Drunken people interfere with women going to the tank. I have seen a boy of 12 being pressed to drink on the Government road near the outstill. I was interrupted by drunken Bagdees leaving the Ruth mêla. They would not let me go till I told the outstill man to give them a bottle of liquor. I have often seen drunken people pass the school between three and four

o'clock singing obscene songs. A drunken man came to the school once. He was passing singing, and the boys went out. I told him to go, and he said he had a right to sing on the Government road. I saw a Mahomedan drunk touching the hands and clothes of women buying bangles in the Rath jatra. *3rd February 1888, KRISHTONOGOR.*

This witness is very eager to give further instances of drunkenness, and is strongly antagonistic to the outstill. When I closed my book a number of persons broke out into violent denunciations of the outstill, the injury done to the rising generation by the cheapness of liquor, and the nuisance to women and children of the number of drunken people about. There is a body here calling itself an Indian Association, which is evidently prepared with dozens of witnesses, but having recorded evidence for four hours and-a-half, I think I have gained sufficient information. The people beg that the outstill may be removed, and the former system restored. On my way back to Jogotbollobhpoor I saw no one to speak to. On the 4th February, on my way from Jogotbollobhpoor to Calcutta, I spoke to people at Borgachee and elsewhere, but obtained no information worth recording. On the 9th February I drove to Chonditala, about fourteen miles. At Debeerpara outpost I questioned the head-constable, who has been here a year and-a-half. He sees drunken people going along the road, two or three every other day—not very drunk, but singing—merry. About 25 per cent. more than there used to be. The *taree* shops at Jogodishpoor and Bhashkoor being less than two miles away, probably account for more of these noisy revellers than the outstill at Chonditala does. They are all low caste people. I spoke to several people at Monberiya, which used to have one liquor shop to the north and one to the south of it. There has been a slight increase in drunkenness, and every day or two people go along singing, though not tipsy enough to stagger or tumble about. One or two may fall in the course of the month. No women have been insulted. There is no drinking in the villages. The price of liquor is not known. At the *taree* shop at Kaleepoor I was shown the usual eight-pice measure with 8 stamped on it, and this measure of *taree* was said to be now sold at six pice; but people do not drink much in the cold weather. No drunken people are seen on the road, although this place is only one mile from Chonditala. At Chonditala I asked the distiller's man as to the proportion of his sales, which I omitted to get when I visited the place on the 5th January.

4th February 1888, BORGACHEE. 9th February, DEBEERPARA. MONBERIYA. KALEEPOOR. CHONDITALA.

Of 10 annas liquor he sells	...	...	...	$\frac{3}{16}$
„ 8 „	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{3}\frac{2}{6}$
„ 6 „	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{16}$

Riding on to Sheokhala, nine miles further, I heard at Barasha *taree* shop that the price of spirits had fallen from Re. 1 and Re. 1-2 to eight and ten annas, and that therefore less *taree* is drunk. At Krishnarampoor, where there is a *taree* shop, I spoke to several respectable looking people, Mahomedans and Koiborttos, and was told that the people drink *taree* and not *spirits;* that no drunken people are seen on road, and no women are annoyed. At Jongolpara the man who used to keep the liquor shop told me he used to sell at Re. 1 and Re. 1-4 the bottle, but he hears the present price is only eight and ten annas. Very few drunken people are seen on the road, and no women are annoyed. Up to this point my coming was not anticipated, and I heard unprejudiced accounts of the state of the case. At Moshahat, however, it was quite different. The people said they were expecting me, and told me the usual stories of liquor being cheaper, drunkenness doubled, fruit thefts become common ("my cocoanunts stolen"); bad language used to women; five or six drunken men going along together, women frightened, but my informants cannot cite any instances. They say that drinkers rejoice and respectable people mourn. That people of this place bring six bottles of liquor and drink it here; do not sell it. They fall on the road. I reached Sheokhala before noon and found the Deputy Collector and the delegate of the Indian Association awaiting me. The outstill is by the roadside close to the thanna. There is a market every Thursday and Sunday. The outstill has taken the place of shops which in 1886-87 took 343¼ gallons of liquor.*

BARASHA. KRISHNARAMPOOR. JONGOLPARA. MOSHAHAT. SHEOKHALA.

* This information given to me by the Deputy Collector appears in correct. *See* Table I, page 24, which shows the shops to have taken only 170 gallons.

9th February 1888,

SHEOKHALA.

The local demand for Sheokhala was estimated at 150 gallons London-proof monthly. The licensee was allowed 24 and 36 jars of 20 gallons each. He has only 19—measuring (inclined) 21 gallons, and of these 9 are empty. The still is not working. It is earthen, the allowed capacity being 50 gallons. The licensee has a shed across the road for drinkers. His signboard shows 21 jars of 2 maunds each. I measured the still to contain 36½ gallons full. The Deputy Collector says that some months ago he broke one as too large.

I tested liquor—

Sample No.	Price.				
1.	8 annas	...	in jar	...	21·7° below proof.
2.	6 „	...	„	..	42·1° „
3.	6 „	...	„	...	42·1° „
4.	4 „	...	in cask	...	54·8° „

The book shows—

		Molasses used.	Outturn.	Sale.
		Mds.	Bottles.	Bottles.
April	1887	Not shown.	822	765
May	„	55	951	940
June	„	52	931	793
July	„	34	584	755
August	„	36	686	562
September	„ ...	48	873	649
October	„	52	999	1,026
November	„	28	573	718
December	„	36	738	573
January	1888	28	539	694
	Total ...	369	7,696	7,475

Examination of Nistarinee Soonree (elderly woman).—The license is in my name. I have no partner, no son. For four generations we have had a shop here—my father-in-law and his father and his son, who was my husband. We used to sell at Re. 1 and Re. 1-4; now sell at—

4 annas	...	...	...	...	...	$1\frac{2}{16}$
6 „	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{4}{16}$
8 „	...	...	...	...	...	$\frac{10}{16}$

at no higher price. I put in the jar—molasses 40 seers, water two kulsees, spent wash one kulsee. [I measured her kulsee to held three gallons.] Fermentation takes seven or eight days in the cold weather and in hot weather five or six days. I distil only one jar at a time. Some days I distil twice, some days once, some not once. $\frac{1}{16}$ths of my liquor are drunk here, and $\frac{6}{16}$ taken away—from half a bottle to six bottles at a time. It is taken to drink, not to sell. Drinkers are Doms, Keyoras, Bagdees, Doolees, not many Mahomedans. There are not many travellers. The drinkers are principally villagers. No women drink. A few prostitutes drink at home. No little boys drink. I only sell for cash. I use *kootra goor*, costing Rs. 3-4 the maund, and cane sugar costing Re. 1-2 for this *kulsee* (3 gallons). I use half of each. I do not use *bhelee goor*. Firewood costs 4 annas a maund.

Examination of Doorga Chuckerbutty, aged 27, head-master of middle vernacular school.—There are about 150 boys on the roll: none of them drink. I have no suspicion of such a thing. I have been here six years. Drinking has increased this year by 25 per cent. among the lower classes. The upper classes drink very little. I see drunken men on the road every one or two days. I see no women among them, nor little boys. I have seen drunken men fall on the road often, two or three times every month. I hear that yesterday at Gait half a dozen tipsy men went to seize a woman—ran after her. The villagers would not let them seize her. Her father-in-law's name is Ram Ghos Goala. I heard this to-day. Gait is nearly a mile from here to the north. The boys of the school complain of drunken men running after them. I hear two or three drunken men went into the *baree* of a *bhodrolok* at Raghoonathpoor with a bad purpose. Priyonath, one of them, is in jail for going into the *baree* after a woman. The others were with him. I do not know the name of the man into whose *baree* he went. Drinking has increased on account of the cheapness of liquor. There are a good many Brahmans here. One-sixteenth of them drink. There are only two houses of Kayasths. They do not drink. People who did not drink before have begun to do so now. Among them I can name Panchkooree Bagdee, aged 26 or 28, Horee Bagdee, aged 30, Pora Doolee, aged 23—24, and Rakhal Bagdee, aged 23, and of the higher classes Abhinash Chuckerbutty, aged 30, Motiram Mookerjee, aged 18 or 19, and Tinkooree Chaterjee, aged 40. They were not seen to drink before. I cannot say whether they did drink. I do not know

whether they drank *taree*. The higher classes here do not drink *taree*. The lower classes do. At this time more drink spirits. *Taree* drinkers have taken to spirits. Plantains and brinjals have been stolen from my garden. Such things have been stolen formerly, but more this year. The day before yesterday a *koomra* was stolen from Somboo Doolee's *baree*. I have not heard that *koomras* were stolen in previous years. I do not know who stole these things. 9th February 1888, SHEOKHALA.

Examination of Mewa Singh, police constable.—I have been here more than two years. The liquor shop used to be where the still is now. Drinking has increased by 75 per cent. People spend more of their earnings in drink since liquor became cheap. I see people tumbling about the road, not every day, more at pooja and *mela* times. In Sraban or Ashar we sent in some drunken men for abusing and resisting the police, and the Deputy Magistrate let them off. Petty thefts have not increased, but theft cases have.

Examination of Mahomed Abdool Wajid, aged 68, *Aymadar.*—I live at Porphoora, two miles south of this. Drinking has increased by 75 per cent. Tipsy men are a great nuisance, abuse people, steal fruit, &c. I hear that it is drunken people who do so. There is great *zooloom*. I have heard that women are pulled about at the markets and bathing-places by drunken people. I have heard it generally. I did not ask for names. I have no suspicion of women drinking. Boys of 12 or 13 drink. Abdool Azim, aged 20, was drunk at the Kartik Pooja. He did not drink spirits before, but drank *taree*.

Examination of Soshee Bhooshon Mookerjee.—I live two miles and-a-half from here at Dukhindihee. The people there used to drink *taree*, but now drink spirits since they have become cheap. [Deponent names two who have taken to drink who never drank before.] A boy named Poorna Bagdee, aged 10, I have seen drunk half a dozen times. Once he fell down. The other times he was only a little tipsy. I saw a Jaliya woman lying drunk at the Barwaree Pooja at Kalyanbatee. Her husband is alive. Three miles from here I have seen women afraid to go to the ghâts because drunken men used abusive language. I mean in my own village. I know that liquor is sold in Dukhindihee and Hosenpoor. I have seen it. I do not know the names of the sellers, but I should recognise them if I saw them.

Examination of Khetronath Dutt, Gonddhobanik.—I have been a shopkeeper here for 50 years, ever since my father's time. Drunken men come into my shop and throw the things about, strike and use bad language. They have done so three or four times. They strike the *jhamps* at night. I have seen 100 and 150 drunk here all at once, and the women leave the road and make a circuit to avoid them. I have seen the road beastly with twenty or twenty-five people vomiting at the same time. Drinking has increased by twelve or fourteen annas. Liquor has been hawked about the country, and there have been convictions for it. I have seen a boy of 11 or 12 drink twice. He was not drunk. He was with his father, Obhoy Haree.

Examination of Bepin Beharee Bhatachajya, Doctor, aged 30.—Teenkooree Bagdee's mother told me he drank all the money and that they had nothing to eat. He has a mother, a wife, and a child to feed. His *baree* is near mine. I only heard this one day. His age is 24 or 25. His mother says that he has taken to drink lately and did not drink before.

There were a group of Baboos present with whom I had some general conversation. They had been discussing the matter with the representative of the Indian Association and were prepared with much protest as to increase of drunkenness. I went into the bazar, a small one, but rain coming on prevented my picking up information. I rode on to Haripal in the teeth of half a gale with cold driving rain, seeing no one and getting no information. 10th February, On the 10th February I visited the outstill at Haripal. It is at a considerable distance from the bazar, on the road from the bazar to the railway station. There are no huts about it. The licensee is Mohendro Nath Shaha, who lives at Shyamnogor in the Twenty-four Pergunnahs, where he has a shop. His sign-board is illegible. He has 30 jars containing (inclined) 28 gallons each. They are said to contain three maunds. He is said to be allowed 21 jars in the hot weather. This is the only place in which I have found spirit distilled from *mahawa*. Each jar of wash contains 20 seers of *mahawa*, four *kulsees* of water and three *hanrees* of spent wash. The *kulsee* contains $2\frac{3}{4}$ gallons, the *hanree* $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons. Fermentation takes eight or nine days now and seven or eight in the hot weather. Mahawa costs Re. 1-6 per maund. The partner present is Chondi Choron Shaha, who says he is no relation of the licensee. The man who has the still at Dipa, Raj Chondor Shaha, a resident of Dipa, used to have the shop here. He is said to be no relation of Mohendro. I measured a spare still about the size of the one in use to contain $52\frac{1}{2}$ gallons. HARIPAL.

I tested liquor—

Sample.		Price.			
No. 1.	Molasses spirit	... 8 to 10 annas	... in cask	... 13·9°	below proof.
„ 2.	„ „	... 6 „	... „	... 39·3°	„
„ 3.	Mahawa	... 4 „	... in jar	... 58·9°	„

10th February 1888, HARIPAL.

When molasses is used it is quite separate from *mahawa*, and each jar of wash contains—

Molasses	... 40 seers.	
Water	... 44 „	
Spent wash	... 30 „	
Total	... 114 „	or 28½ gallons.

Examination of Chondee Choron Shaha, resident partner.—Of the goor liquor the cheaper makes $\frac{4}{16}$ of our sales, the dearer $\frac{2}{16}$. The *mahawa* liquor is of only one quality. Half the liquor is taken away, half drunk here. People take away from a quartar of a bottle to six bottles. Very little of the eight or ten-anna liquor is drunk here. Of the six-anna liquor $\frac{6}{16}$ are drunk here and $\frac{10}{16}$ taken away. I do not see people of the upper classes come here, and I do not know for whom liquor is taken away. Those who drink here are Harees, a very few Sodgops, a few Koiborttos, a few Baboos, many Bagdees, Doolees and Jaliyas. There are no Dumpodars here, and no Musalmans drink. No women come here to drink. We only sell for cash. Three-fourths of a bottle of four-anna liquor will make a man so drunk that he staggers but does not fall. On half a bottle a man will go away singing. On half a bottle of six annas a man will be well drunk.

The outstill accounts show—

Account of mahawa.

	Material used. Mds. srs.	Outturn. Gls. bots.	Sales. Gals. bots.
April 1887	None.	None.	None.
May „			
June „	13 5	81 4	75 4
July „	11 0	75 1	75 4
August „	14 20	86 2	81 1
September „	8 0	54 2	55 2
October „	9 0	48 5	56 0
November „	5 20	34 0	36 2
December „	7 0	39 1	37 3
January 1888	7 0	36 0	35 0
Total ...	75 5	455 3	450 4

Account of molasses.

	Material used. Mds. srs.	Outturn. Gals. bots.	Sales. Gals. bots.
April	17 10	288 2*	217 5*
May	63 15	239 3	250 3
June	62 0	204 2	229 3
July	52 10	158 3	162 4
August	39 20	155 3	148 3
September	41 30	136 2	163 1
October	53 10	132 4	141 0
November	51 30	168 1	137 5
December	67 30	176 5	174 0
January	41 10	341 5*	366 3*
Total ...	495 5	2,289 4	2,442 1

* Evidently wrong.

On my way back from the outstill to camp I visited the *taree* shop. The vendor stated that he had reduced his price from eight pice to six in consequence of people taking to spirits. That some Mahomedans drink *taree*. The Deputy Collector says that the shops of which this has taken the place took 579¾ gallons of liquor in 1886-87. The licensee is allowed a 50-gallon still; it actually contains 52½ gallons. He is allowed 30 and 21 jars, each of 30 gallons; they actually contain 28 gallons. The local demand originally estimated was 225 gallons of London-proof spirit. This was reduced to 181 gallons, because the upset price was not reached.

Examination of Baranoshi Keyora, aged 40.—I live at Haripal. I have drunk liquor for four years. I before drank shop liquor at one rupee the bottle. I now drink six-anna liquor from the outstill. The eight-anna liquor is as good as that costing a rupee used to be, but I

cannot afford it. The six-anna liquor is good and clean and has no bad smell. For nine pice worth of six-anna liquor a man can be well drunk, not drunk enough to fall—not very drunk. Our women do not drink, nor our boys. We should turn boys out. I drink both at home and at the still. I never saw women at the still. I never drink the four-anna *mahawa* liquor. I sometimes drink *taree*, two or three pice worth. A man would get drunk off four or five pice worth. I do not drink so much *taree* since liquor became cheap.

Examination of Dwaree Mochee.—I drink four pice worth of six-anna liquor, and can do my work. I do not get drunk. Eight pice worth would make me drunk. I do not drink the four-anna liquor. I never drink *taree*. I never saw women drink. I never drank the shop liquor before, nor any liquor till the still was opened.

Examination of Khiroo Mochee.—I drink the six-anna liquor, three or four pice worth at a time. I never drank before the still was opened. No *Mochees* drank before. I am a *chelya manushya*. What do I know. [Evidently lying.]

Examination of Rakhal Doolee.—I drink six pice worth of the six-anna liquor. I used to drink *taree*, but not now since liquor became cheap. I used to drink liquor from the shop at a rupee the bottle. The liquor is of the same quality as before. For six pice I can get a little drunk—not so as to fall. I could do my work after drinking that quantity. I never saw women drinking.

Examination of Horee Das Banerjee, aged 25, Brahman, head-master of the middle class English school.—I have been here for about four years. There are 80 boys in the school. None of them drink liquor. I never suspected any of them. Drinking has increased. I once went with Soorendro Baboo to the still, and saw one or two (I forget whether it was one or two) women lying drunk and uncovered on the ground by the road five or six yards from the outstill. They wore dirty clothes like coolies. I do not recollect whether they had *koortas*. I think there were two women. It was 1 o'clock in the day. They were not in clean clothes like prostitutes. Two men were lying almost dead, and many were walking about, singing bad songs, and making unreasonable requests to the good gentlemen walking. Requesting them to diminish the price of liquor. I do not remember noticing any drunken women, except those on the ground. The school is a little south of the bazar. My lodging is south-west of the outstill. In going and coming I see drunken men, but not drunken women, nor little boys. I saw drunken people before, but I see that the number has greatly increased since the outstill was opened. I never saw women except on that one occasion. I think the number of drunken people I see has about doubled. Generally among the lower classes. One-sixth are *bhodro lok*. No great proportion of the *bhodro lok* are young lads of 20 or so. They are generally older men. Most of the drunken people are not only noisy, but staggering drunk and falling about. The obscenity of the songs they sing is demoralising, and passengers are annoyed by requests to them, urgent and unreasonable, such as to stop and hear them sing.

Examination of Koilash Chondro Choudhoree, aged 52, Government contractor.—Since the outstill was opened the oppression of drunkards has greatly increased. They seize people. I was seized once by two tipsy men. I was coming from my garden with flowers about four months ago. I got free from them and ran away. I cannot say why they seized me. Another time they threw down my flowers. I have once seen a woman fall beside the water when running away in fear of drunken men. They wanted to seize her. It was about six months ago. Every three or four days I see drunken men lying naked by the roadside. Five or six times a month I have seen this. They are low-caste people. I have also seen women drunk. One was a prostitute, but three or four times I have seen low-caste women drunk, who were not prostitutes, women of thirty or forty years of age, with men, women of this country, not Dhangors. I have seen boys of 14 drunk, but not boys of 10 or 12, but I have heard of it. Drunken people were seen sometimes before the outstill was opened, but there are now twelve times as many as there were. I never saw women drunk before. I see *bhodro lok* going along drunk, but not falling on the road. Petty thefts of fruit and the like by drunken people are common; bamboos are cut. I have seen drunken people carrying away bamboos. I have seen drunken men push over men who were carrying bamboos. My garden is on the road. My *baree* is south-west of the still, a little off the road.

Examination of Khetro Pal Singh, member of the District Board, Zemindar.—I have nearly fifty villages. I know of no cases of families distressed for food, but on account of the cheapness of liquor, all the lower classes drink. I see an increase in the number of drunken people on the road, an increase of twelve or fourteen annas, more than 75 per cent. My low-caste servants who drank occasionally, three or four times in a year, now drink every three or four days. I know nothing of women drinking. I hear that liquor used to cost one rupee, and now four, six, eight, and ten annas. Some of those who now drink spirits used to drink *taree*. I live in Haripal. I do not know much about the villages around which are not close by, but I hear that people sell liquor secretly. Two were fined for doing so at Serampore, in one of the municipalities. In Joishto or Ashar Banarosee Keyra and Malika Harinee were convicted of selling liquor at Chokanonto in Haripal. I hear that people take away outstill liquor for sale in villages three or four miles off. If Government fixes a minimum price of Re. 1 the bottle, the villagers would prove any infraction of the rule.

Examination of Mooktakeshee, Kayasth, prostitute.—I have lived in Haripal for twelve years. The outstill liquor is used in my *baree*. I do not know the price. I hear it costs eight annas. It previously cost a rupee a bottle from the shop. The former liquor was better. The present liquor stinks, seizes the head, looks clear enough, but nauseates. I

10th February 1888, HARIPAL.

cannot say whether it is drugged. Four people can get drunk off one bottle. I do not drink much. Some people drink half a bottle, some three quarters. Four people could not be drunk off one bottle. The strength is the same as before.

Examination of Nishta Koiborttinee, prostitute.—I have lived in Haripal for five or six years. Liquor now cost eight annas, and before a rupee, of the same strength, but the present liquor seizes the head. Three men would get drunk off one bottle, not very drunk.

Examination of Bepin Beharee Ghosal, aged 34.—I live on my means at Hora, two miles north of this. The Jaliyas or Bagdees who go to market get drunk, and the women in Moocheepara in my village are said to get drunk. I see four times as many people drunk as before. I should say that all the *choto lok* drink now. The *bhodro lok* of Hora and Gopeenogor adjoining always drank and now drink more. A few of them drink. They drink at their homes. I have not heard of liquor being brought to the village for sale. I have heard no rumour of women of the better classes drinking. I hear that a blacksmith gave little boys liquor to drink, but little boys do not buy liquor for themselves. I know of no drunken men going to seize women, nor of trespassing into *barees*. No such thing has occurred. On the Chorok day there were many drunk on the road. The Chorok is on the last day of Choitro. There were not so many drunk the year before. I did not see so many before. There has been no increase in petty thefts.

Examination of Jadob Krishto Choudhoree, Brahman, aged 40.—I live in Haripal, near the outstill. I see many people drunk and making a noise, frightening women. I never saw them trying to seize women. The women run away. I see above a hundred people drunk in a day. I have three or four times seen coolie women drunk with their husbands—not women of this country. I see lads of 15 or 16 drunk, but not boys of 10 or 12.

Examination of Shyam Podo Singha, aged 32, *medical man.*—I live at Haripal. I have a dispensary in the bazar, not quite a mile from the outstill. I see from twenty-five to thirty people drunk daily, but no women among them. I have seen women very rarely in the doolee bearers' quarter drinking with their husbands, sitting in their *barees*—not drunk. Before this year I saw scarcely one daily, except on festivals, when I saw four or five. On a great festival I should now see a thousand or half the people drunk, principally low caste people. Drinkers among the upper classes (*bhodro lok*) have increased by 25 per cent. Some of them drink as they come from the railway station, but most of them at home. Most of the low caste people drink at the outstill. I know of no cases of illness from drinking.

11th February, JANDA.

In the evening I walked through the bazar, which is insignificant, and I got no information. On the 11th February I rode to Janda, some 13 miles. It is about a hundred yards below the bund of the Damoodar, with no huts about it. It is near Rajbulhat, but is not a place of importance; the site quite unobjectionable. There used to be an outstill at Champadanga, three miles north of this, within a mile of Serampoor outstill in Jahanabad sub-division across the the Damoodar. It was also in the middle of a Bagdee and Doolee bustee. The Deputy Collector moved it on the 23rd November without petition. The allowance of fermenting capacity has not been changed. It is 24 and 36 jars of 10 gallons each. The licensee has actually only 18 jars. I measured the largest and the smallest, and found them to contain 12 gallons and 9 gallons. The still contains 20 gallons. It is an earthen one. The outstill accounts show—

		Molasses used.	Outturn.	Sale.
		Mds. s.	Bottles.	
April	1887 (14 days only) ...	7 1	242	188
May	„	17 6	713	677
June	„	14 34	584	542
July	„	10 8	417	316
August	„	6 25	274	394
September	„	10 7	408	364
October	„	10 7	407	452
November	„	11 33	468	444
December	„	20 3	815	539
January	1888	11 33	473	663
		119 37	4,801	4,579

I tested liquor as follows—

Sample.	Price.		U. P.
No. 1.	8 annas	... in bottle ...	11 8
„ 2.	6 „	... in jar ...	38·8
„ 3.	4—3½ „	... in „ ...	49 8

Examination of Bipro Das Shaha, licensee.—I have a partner, Rakhal Shaha. He has no other shop. I sell only these three kinds of liquor—$\frac{14}{16}$ of my sales are four-anna liquor, $\frac{1}{16}$ six-anna, and $\frac{1}{16}$ eight-anna. The *choto lok* generally drink here. The *bhodro lok* take liquor home. Villagers come from two or three miles off, and people who go along the bund. I have not been here in the rainy season. There is no boat traffic now. There are no Baboos here. The *bhodro lok* are Goalas, Tamboolees, Tantees. No Koiborttos nor Mahomedans. No women or boys drink. One *bhodro lok* may drink perhaps every five days. Eight or ten pice worth of liquor will make a man drunk—not too drunk to go away—just happy—not too drunk to do his work. Four annas will make a man fall. There is a bazar daily at Rajbulhat. The market people do not drink. I use no *mahawa*, only *goor*. I put in each jar— *11th February 1888, JANDA.*

Molasses	...	...	11	seers.
Water	...	...	14	,,
Spent wash	...	...	13—14	,,
	Total	...	38	seers or 9½ gallons.

I use the *mát* of *shâchee goor* after the *cheenee* has been extracted. The price is from Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 3 per maund. Fermentation takes eleven days now, eight in the hot weather. I sometimes put jars out in the sun to quicken fermentation. Distillation takes about three hours, or half an hour more. From one jar of wash I get from ten to twelve bottles of spirit. I only distil one jar at a time. I do not use more fluid in cold weather than in hot. I fumigate without drugs. I put no water in the receiver. I used to have a shop at Shahapoor, west of Tarkeshwar. I used to sell at Re. 1, Re. 1-2, Re. 1-4 the bottle. I sell cheap now, because of the tax to Government. The liquor is not the same strength. The weak liquor keeps good for about a month.

Examination of Horish Chondro, aged 47, gomashta of Baboo Joykrishn Mookerjee of Ootterpara, who has a zemindari here of three villages—Janda, Kuliyara and Mokoondapoor.—Some of the lower classes drink here, not many. No women nor boys. Not many drunken people are seen about. Women are not annoyed by drunken men. The outstill here has not increased the number of drunken people. I have been here for fifteen years. Mahomedans do not drink spirits, and I do not know that they drink *taree*.

Examination of Kazee Bux, Mahomedan, aged 30.—I live at Janda. I do not drink spirits. A few Musalmans drink *taree*. I do not. I do not see drunken people about. Women are not annoyed by them.

Examination of Tooposhee Ram Jaliga, aged 45.—I do not drink. Some Jaliyas do. They do not drink more since the still was opened here. I do not see drunken people about.

Examination of Boikonto Nath Sarkar, Phanreedar.—My *phanree* is at Rajbulhat. There is not much drinking here. Liquor at the shop used to cost from Re. 1 to eight annas weak liquor. It came from the distillery.

The Deputy Collector says that Rajbulhat was the only shop in this neighbourhood, and worked for four months only, taking 9½ gallons of spirits in four months.* I rode back by Sreerampoor, Champadanga, &c., to camp at Haripal, talking to a number of people, and learnt that there is but little drinking in the neighbourhood. The only one who said that it had greatly increased was the head-constable at Champadanga outpost. I gathered that much *taree* is prepared and drunk at home. I pulled up at the Dipa outstill as I passed, and the man said he sold at six, eight and ten annas the bottle. At Dipa the people spoke of a good deal of visible intoxication, but rather of slight tipsiness than of serious drunkenness, and I could hear nothing of drunken men being troublesome to women or going into *barees*. I returned to camp at Haripal. On the 12th February I went by rail to Tarkeshwar, about seven miles. The site is about half a mile from the railway station and bazar, on what since the railway was opened has become the principal road to Jahanabad. This outstill has taken the place of shops which in 1886-87 took 171¼ gallons of distillery liquor.* The local demand was estimated at 225 gallons London-proof monthly. The upset fee was fixed at Rs. 450. The highest bid was only Rs. 304, and the demand was reduced to 154 gallons. The licensee is allowed 24 and 36 jars of 20 gallons each, and a still of 40 gallons. *CHAMPADANGA.* *DIPA.* *12th February, TARKESHWAR.*

* The Deputy Collector who gave me this information afterwards altered it—See page 24.

12th February 1888, TARKESHWAR.

His signboard shows 27 jars, which I do not understand. He has actually 26 jars, each measuring $17\frac{1}{2}$ gallons upright as used. The still is earthen and contains 45 gallons as measured. The shops in 1886-87 took their liquor from Radhanogor distillery. It was very weak. At *mela* time an enormous quantity of imported liquor from the hotel is taken by the Baboos here. The books show—

	Molasses used. Mds. srs.	Outturn. Gals.	Sale Gals.
April 1887—14th to 30th	26 0	156	150
May	39 0	234	227
June	38 0	227	225
July	30 20	185	189
August	31 0	178	172
September	21 0	126	119
October	24 0	144	155
November	20 0	120	113
December	19 20	117	114
January 1888	22 0	132	126
	271 0	1,619	1,590

He shows only 18 gallons in hand. I tested liquor as follows :—

	Price.		
Sample No. 1.	8 annas ... in jar	... 18·3°	below proof.
„ 2.	Ditto ... do.	... 17·2°	„ „

The distiller says that all his four-anna liquor was drunk out at the *mela*, and that he now mixes with water. I told him to produce his watered spirit, and found the strength to be 44·8 below proof.

Examination of the licensee Kartik Chondro Hazra, a Tentoolee Bagdee.—I used to have a shop at Goorhatee in Jahanabad sub-division. I have a partner, Dino Nath Shaha, who stays at Goorhatee. I keep only these two qualities of liquor, at four and eight annas. I never sell at six annas, but I sell sometimes at ten annas. Here I only use *goor*. I put in each jar—

Molasses	20 seers.
Water	20 „
Spent wash	20—25 „
Total ...	60 seers or 15 gallons.

The goor is *mát goor*, costing from Rs. 2-4 to Rs. 2-8 the maund. The sugar has been extracted. It is all cane sugar. I sometimes use date sugar, *Kootra goor* which costs Rs. 3-8. In this cold weather fermentation takes from 8 to 12 days—11 or 12 days; in hot weather 7 or 8 days. *Kootra goor* takes seven days and sugarcane *goor* eight days I sell most of the four-anna liquor; $\frac{15}{16}$ of my sales are at four annas, and $\frac{1}{16}$ at eight annas. A man will be drunk enough to fall on eight pice worth of four-anna liquor. Nearly all of the liquor is drunk here and not taken away. There are no *bhodro lok* here. Those who drink are Harees, Bagdees, Doms, Moochees, and the like. No Musalmans drink, no women, and no boys. I use less fluid in the cold season, five seers less water. I sometimes put in a quarter of a seer of *dhima goor*, which is the same as *bhelee*. It is western *goor*. I do not know whether it is cane or date.

Examination of Sreekanto Singh Roy, aged 40, *Chetree, Naib of the Mohunt*—I have been here for eight or nine years. There are two festivals here in the year, in February and April—the Seeboratree and the Chorok. The shop used to be at Shahapoor close by, and liquor was sold at a rupee the bottle. Then very few of the lower orders could drink. Now all

drink, and Mahomedans also. No women, except prostitutes, nor little boys, except coolie boys, drink spirits. Those who go to school do not drink. Many drunken people are now seen daily in the bazar. Before we saw none. Women are annoyed by the noise and singing of drunken men; they do not seize them to dishonour them, but they take hold of them stupidly. There are no *barees* here for people to trespass into, only shops. Two men died drunk five or six months ago. One fell into the water, and one died insensible from drink. *12th February 1888, TARKESHWAR.*

Examination of Soorjyo Koomar Mullik, Kayasth, aged 55, *Dewan of the Mohunt.*—(Has been joining in all the answers given by the last deponent.) All the *choto lok* drink in the surrounding villages within half a mile. I know of no cases of going into *barees* after women, but drunken men make a great row, and once there was a riot among the Dooly bearers. I do not hear of any increase in the number of petty thefts. The boys of the lower orders, Dooly bearers and the like, drink at the age of 12 and 14. Two or three women of the Doolees have come to us complaining of want of food on account of their husbands drinking. I have heard of *choto lok* selling the liquor they take home to drink, and prostitutes sell liquor in their houses, but we suspect no retail trade in distant villages. If there were a rule fixing a minimum price of a rupee per bottle, there would be much less drinking, and there would be no difficulty in proving and detecting infractions of the rule. Tarkeshwar has been much injured by the outstill, which should be removed. Many respectable women come here all the year round.

Examination of Seyodut Sonar.—I live in Seeb Thakoor's Lane, Calcutta I want eight annas worth of liquor in this bottle. This is the fourth time I have come to Tarkeshwar. I came the day before yesterday. Yesterday I took a bottle and a half. Ten of us drank it, and no one was drunk. Four will drink this bottle. I do not know whether we shall be drunk. I came here last Boisakh. I took no liquor then. I have come here once or twice a year for four years. Four times in all. There are many more drinking in the bazar this year than I ever saw before. People did not drink on my previous visits.

(Deponent is somewhat drunk now).

Examination of Dwaree Keyora, aged 30.—I live at Shahapoor. I drink liquor. I drink here about eight pice worth. It sends me staggering and unable to work. I sleep. I used to drink the shop liquor when I could afford half a bottle, but it cost a rupee the bottle. A few of our Keyora women drink at home, but only since the liquor became cheap. No little boys drink. They drink if their fathers give them a little. Drunken people are seen on the road now in much greater numbers than before the still was opened. The present liquor makes one more thirsty than the shop liquor did, but it is clear and does not smell nasty.

I questioned a number of men coming for drink, and low caste men and shopkeepers in the bazar. All are unanimous as to the increase in drinking since the still was opened, owing to the cheapness of liquor, and those who use it think the cheapness a great benefit. From Tarkeshwar I went to Calcutta by rail. On the 14th February I went by rail from Calcutta to Nalikool, where I met the Joint-Magistrate of Serampore. It appears doubtful whether the police have given any notice here. The estimated local demand was 75 gallons London proof monthly, and the licensee was allowed a 20-gallon still, and 24 and 36 jars, each of 10 gallons. I measured one 13 gallons, and there are 24 of them. I tested the liquor. *14th February, NALIKOOL.*

Sample No.	Price.			
1.	10 annas ...	in jar	... ...	19·8° below proof.
2.	8 „ ...	do.	... ...	33·5°

The books show—

	Molasses used. Mds.	s.	Outturn. Gals.	bots.	Sale. Gals.	bots.
April 1887 (14th to 30th) ...	16	16	62	0	52	0
May	28	8½	99	3	84	0
June	20	10	70	3	86	3
July	21	20	75	0	58	0
August	18	14	57	0	59	0
September	20	...	79	0	84	3
October	18	30	81	3	73	3
November	16	25	64	3	67	1½
December	9	15	44	0	60	0
January 1888	11	5	69	0	56	1½
Total	180	23½	702	0	681	0

14th February 1888, NALIKOOL.

The Deputy Collector considers the business of this still to be entirely smuggling and the accounts false. The outstill is on a cart road on which there is not much traffic. There is no bazar, and there are no huts about.

Examination of Koilash Chandra Shaha, partner in the outstill.—The license is in Khetro Mohun Shaha's name. I am his partner. He is my first cousin. The monthly fee is Rs. 150. I sell these two kinds of liquor only, at eight and ten annas. I never sell at six or four annas. $\frac{4}{16}$ of my sales are at ten annas and $\frac{12}{16}$ at eight. The former is taken by *bhodro lok* (Baboos). There are a few here. One or two-sixteenths of them drink here, the rest take liquor home. The middle class people and the *choto lok* drink eight-anna liquor. The *choto lok* are Doolees, Keyoras, and Bagdees. No Mahomedans drink. About a quarter of the liquor is drunk here, and three quarters taken home. People take away from half a bottle to six bottles at a time. They do not take it away to sell. Those who drink here drink from four to eight pice worth a man will get a little intoxication (*nisha*) off that. Four or five annas will make a man drunk enough to fall. I put in each jar molasses 14 to 15 seers, two *kulshees* water, one *kulshee* spent wash. (I measured his *kulshee* to hold $2\frac{3}{4}$ gallons.) I use the *nagree goor* from which the sugar has not been extracted. Fermentation takes from 13 to 14 days now, and from seven to eight days in hot weather. The cost of *goor* is Rs. 3 per maund. Fire-wood costs Rs. 20 per 100 maunds and Re. 1-6 per 16 maunds carriage. I use more fluid in cold season.

[The man deposes in a sulky cautious manner, and I cannot feel satisfied that he speaks the truth. He is evidently conscious of some wrong dealing, probably smuggling liquor into town.]

Examination of Gobindo Patro Koibortto, aged 45.—I live here at Dukhinkool. I never use liquor. Some of the village people drink spirits. I do not see *taree* drunk. The lower classes drink—Bagdees, Doolees. I do not know of women drinking. I see drunken people on the roads and ghâts more this year than before. I do not know why. They fall on the road and use abusive language. From two to ten of them fall drunk on the road in the month. There used to be a shop here. There was not so much drinking then; I do not know why. Two-sixteenths of the Koiborttos drink, one-sixteenth of the Bagdees, six-sixteenths of the Doolees. Drunken men use bad language to women, who are afraid to go along the road. I know of no case of attempt to seize a woman. I have heard of a case of attempt. She was a traveller, and had no man with her. I do not know the names of the drunken men. There were two of them. It was in Srabon. Mihi Lal Das saw it, and Barik, a Mussalman.* Thefts have been more frequent this year.

Examination of Mihi Lal Das, Koibortto, aged 29, *dealer in goor.*—I live here. More drunken men have been visible this year. The number has increased by ten annas. They get so drunk as to fall. From ten to fifteen people fall in the month. I see it myself. I have seen a woman gathering brinjals in the field. She is the wife of Bonomalee Bagdee. She said that drunken people came to seize her, and she ran away. I did not see the drunken men. I never saw drunken men go to seize women. Fruit thefts have been more common this year. I do not know that drunken men steal them, but only that thefts have become more common within the last five or six months. There were few before.

Examination of Koilash Shatra, Koibortto, aged 50.—I live at this place. I do not drink There has been ten annas increase in drinking since the still was opened. I do not know of women drinking. Doolee women may drink. I do not know whether they drank before. Thefts of *aloos* and the like at night have been more frequent this year, but there have not been many house thefts.

Examination of Nishta Swornokar, aged 45.—I live at Haripal. I have a relative here. I know nothing of this place. I see no drinkers among my neighbours. There is no drinking except at the outstill. I live near the bazar; to the south of it. I see no drunken people there. I know of no women being annoyed. My neighbours drink, but are not troublesome. I do not know that drinking has increased this year. I do not see women or boys drinking.

Examination of Shekh Barik, a Musulman.—I live at this place. I did not see any woman assaulted. I heard of it from cultivators. I do not know how many tipsy men there were. Drinking has increased from one to six-sixteenths of the people.

I examined half a dozen women passing along the road as to annoyance from tipsy people, and they said they never heard of such a thing. From Nalikool I rode to my camp at Haripal, three miles. On the 15th February

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* See evidence of these two men.

I rode from Haripal to Dipa, which I saw on the 11th instant, about five miles. There are 26 jars, measuring (inclined) 9 gallons each. The still (earthen) measures 19 gallons. The books show— *15th February 1888, DIPA.*

	Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sales.	
	Mds.	Srs.	Gals.	bot.	Gals.	bot.
April 1887	16	30	169	1	150	2½
May „	29	0	169	0	162	1½
June „	31	20	166	1¼	159	2½
July „	21	20	113	0½	112	4
August „	17	10	79	3	74	2¾
September „	15	10	78	2	92	3¼
October „	18	0	111	4½	117	0½
November „	17	0	98	4½	107	1½
December „	15	10	82	4	84	3
January 1888	17	10	105	3	108	4½
	198	30	1,173	5¾	1,169	2

The outstill is on the side of the old Benares road, two hundred yards from the bazar. There are no huts about it. I tested the liquor as follows:—

Sample No.					
1.	8 annas	... in jar	...	...	33° below proof.
2.	6 „	... „ do.	...	...	34·4° „

Examination of Raj Chunder Shaha, Licensee.—My partners are Gopal and Prosonno. I pay a monthly fee of Rs. 150. I am allowed 24 and 36 jars of one maund each and a still of twenty gallons. Fermentation takes twelve or thirteen days in hot weather, and in cold from six to nine. I do not use more fluid in cold weather. I use—

Molasses	...	... 10 seers.
Water	...	... 20 „
Spent wash	...	... 10 „
Total		... 40 seers = one maund, or ten gallons.

I use sometimes *kootra*, sometimes *shachee goor*. The *kootra* is date molasses from which sugar (*chinee*) has been extracted. *Shachee* is cane molasses from which sugar has also been extracted. *Kootra* costs from Rs. 3-4 to Rs. 3-7 the maund; *shachee* costs Rs. 5-8; fire-wood costs a rupee for four maunds. I make ten-anna liquor, when any one orders it specially; I have none in stock now. Otherwise I only sell these two kinds. Sometimes I sell at four annas, when it comes out very poor. I have none in stock. I judge of the strength only by its clearness. Weak liquor is muddy. $\frac{10}{16}$ of my sales are at eight annas and $\frac{6}{16}$ at six annas. In the month I sell about two gallons at ten annas, and four or five gallons at four annas. A fourth of the eight-anna liquor is drunk here and three-fourths at home—the six-anna liquor in the same proportion. Those who drink here are both travellers and villagers—five-eighths of them travellers and three-eighths villagers. Travellers never take liquor away. Those who drink here drink each about ten or twelve pice worth, some only six pice. Twelve pice worth is half a six-anna bottle. It will cause intoxication (*nisha*). A man can walk away, but it causes him happiness (*anondo*). Three-eighths of a bottle of eight-anna liquor might make people fall. None of the travellers' women or children drink. The men never give them any. No village women drink; *bhodro lok* take liquor home—Brahmans and Kayasths—Baboos. They send servants for liquor. Do not drink here. Among the travellers, *bhodro lok* drink a glass and go away. They do not get drunk. People going eastward have not the money to spend in drink that those have who go the other way.

Examination of Bijoy Kissen Mookerjee, aged 28, priest.—I live at Dipa. I do not drink spirits or *taree*. There used to be a liquor shop in the bazar. I do not know the price at which it sold. People all say that the present liquor is sold at four and five annas. Since the still was opened drinkers have increased by twelve annas. The low caste people are generally so drunk as to sing and use bad language as they go along. In the course of a month three or four are drunk enough to fall. Most of the drunken men who sing are not travellers, but people of the neighbourhood. People used to get drunk and sing before the still was opened, but not so many. I never see women among the drunken people, but I see one or two boys of twelve or fourteen—Doolees, Harees, and the like, *choto lok*. I should say that $\frac{2}{16}$ drank liquor before and $\frac{4}{16}$ now. Of the *bhodro lok* $\frac{2}{16}$ths or $\frac{3}{16}$ths drink, and the same number also drank before. I do not know whether they drink more. Drunken men go to seize women. Four or five months ago I saw a Dhobinee woman going along alone, aged from 35 to 38. Three or four tipsy men went to seize her, and she ran away. It was in the evening, just after sunset. They did not run after her. She was coming this way, and they

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were standing making a noise. I have heard of similar cases. I do not know of any increase in the number of thefts. I do not know of sales elsewhere. Much *taree* is drunk, especially by the lower orders. I cannot say whether they drink more or less now than they used to. I see that families are distressed for want of food on account of drink. These men present are some whose families are in distress. They used to drink before, but not so much as now.

Examination of Beejoo Keyora, aged 40, *cultivator and labourer.*—I have five *beeghas* of land. I have drunk for the last twenty years. I do not drink *taree*. There used to be a liquor shop in this bazar, selling liquor at from fourteen annas to a rupee; not more than a rupee. The price is now six, eight, and ten annas. I do not drink more now than I used to. I do drink more since it is cheap. I sometimes drink here, sometimes take liquor home. I drink from eight to twelve pice worth here. I get good intoxication (*nisha*) on twelve pice, not to fall. I get (cheerfulness) *ánonda*, and stumble about; get too drunk to work. I can drink eight pice worth and go away. The more expensive liquor was stronger. The present liquor is weaker. It is good and clear. If it stinks I do not take it. It produces a little nausea (*hakál*); the shop liquor did not. We poor people prefer this cheap liquor: it is much better for us. Some Keyora women drink liquor, and boys of 10 or 12 also drink a little.

Examination of Doondiram Doolee, aged 25.—I live at Chandbatee—the other side of the *khal*. I drink both spirits and *taree*. I have drunk ever since I can remember. I use more *ganja* than either *taree* or spirits. I drink spirits rather than *taree*. I do not know what liquor cost. When there was a shop I did not drink it. It now costs six, eight, and ten annas. I drink here twelve pice worth at a time. I can go off cheerfully, singing, and eat my rice after drinking that quantity and not tumble down. On four annas I should fall insensible, and not be able to get up. I do not know that Doolee women drink. My wife does not. I know of no drunken men trespassing into other people's *barees*.

Examination of Poran Doolee, aged 45.—I live at Chandbatee. I have used both *taree* and spirits for twelve years. I drink most spirits. Liquor here costs six and ten annas. I drink both. I drink here fourteen pice or four annas worth. On four annas worth I can go home without falling and eat my rice. Some Doolee women drink. The shop used to sell first at six annas and afterwards at a rupee. I used to drink *taree* for four months, and not liquor from the shop. I drink *taree* from a Brahman's trees—*tál* trees. The present liquor has a bad smell and produces nausea. It seizes the head. I know of no women being annoyed, nor of trespassing into *barees*. Boys of 13 and 14 drink.

Examination of Shombhoo Kásharee, aged 55.—I exercise my caste trade. I live at Dipa. I never drink. There used to be a shop here. I do not know the price of liquor then or now. The lower classes drink more since the still was opened. I believe $\frac{12}{16}$ use liquor now, and before only $\frac{6}{16}$. Of the better classes, half drink now, and before a quarter. I do not know that those who drank before drink more now. Drunken men go into the village and abuse people, and knock at doors. I know of no women being annoyed. I have seen men lying drunk on the road in the village. I have seen one, not more. I never saw a woman drunk or a little boy. We are unhappy because of the violence as aforesaid of drunken men. Thefts are more common than they used to be.

Examination of Jodoonath Shaha, aged 50, *Soonree.*—I am not a partner in this shop. I live at Dipa. The licensee is my *kootombo*. He had the shop before in his *baree*. All drink now that liquor is cheap. The shop liquor used to cost fourteen annas and a rupee, but now it costs six, eight, and ten annas. More people are seen drunk now. There is a *taree* shop at Paharpoor. I do not know whether people drink less *taree* since liquor became cheap.

Examination of Panchkoree Pal, Tantee, aged 60.—I am a weaver. I live at Dipa Komorpoor. I never drank in my life. I used to see a few people drunk on the road. I now see more, twelve annas more, principally of the lower classes, but some *bhodro lok*. About three-fourths of the lower classes here drink; formerly one-fourth only. Of the *bhodro lok* formerly only $\frac{2}{16}$ths drank, one or two persons. The *bhodro lok* are Brahmans and Tantees and Kasháree. There are no Tambulees nor Kayasths. There are Boidyas, but they do not drink. There are *bhodro* Sodgops. I hear that they drink, but I do not see it. No women are seen drunk, nor boys. I have heard that tipsy men go to take hold of women on the road, but I never saw it. I have heard of a drunken Brahman going into Jodoo Soonree's *baree*. Jodoo was there. I do not know his design in going in. I do not know where the Brahman came from. He was a stranger.

Examination of Lokhi Narayan Modok, Moira, aged 70.—I have a shop here. I never drink. I see many drunken men about. One struck the matwork of my house a few days ago. I live sometimes at Hidgelee. There are more tipsy people about now than there used to be. Three-fourths of the whole people drink. I do not know of women or children drinking. I do not know how many drank before.

HARIPAL.

The same day I returned to Haripal. The old woman who keeps a shop on the roadside near my tent tells me she does not see any drunken people on the road, and that there is no annoyance from them. I observe that there is much traffic on the road. The darogha of the thanna, which is close by, on the other hand, says that he sees many drunken people on the road, but as he has only been here since October, he cannot tell what was the state of things before. Other people to whom I spoke on the road said that there were many

more drunken men than there used to be, but I heard of no annoyance to women. On the 16th February I left Haripal by the early train and went to Singoor. The still is situate at the eastern end of the bazar, on the main road from Baidyabatee to Tarkeshwar, and two minutes walk from the railway station. It is next door to the school, and to the former liquor shop. It is in the same hands as the still at Nalikool, and from both probably much liquor is smuggled into the urban area. The distiller says that he is allowed 24 and 36 jars of 20 gallons. There are only 24, of which I measured one to hold just 30 gallons. The still is of copper, and is said to contain 30 gallons, measured in Calcutta. I tested the liquor as follows:— *16th February 1888, SINGOOR.*

Sample No.	Price.				
1.	Ten annas	...	in jar	...	18·8° below proof.
2.	Ten „	...	do.	...	12·0° „
3.	Nine „	...	do.	...	20·6° „
4.	Nine „	...	do.	...	20·6° „
5.	Eight „	...	do.	...	31·3° „
6.	Eight „	...	do.	...	32·1° „
7.	Eight „	...	do.	...	30·8° „

The following figures were taken from the account book:—

	Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sales.	
	Mds.	srs.	Gals.	bots.	Gals.	bots.
April 1887			Accounts confused.			
May	58	29	219	3	189	0
June	54	27	211	3	219	3
July	52	26	194	0	214	3
August	48	24	182	1½	164	1½
September	63	2½	217	0	230	3
October	56	28	211	1½	202	0
November	46	1	172	0	171	0
December	36	18	138	0	162	0
January 1888 ...	47	23½	182	0	152	0
Total ...	464	19	1,727	3	1,704	4½

Examination of Khetro Nath Shaha.—The license is in the name of my cousin, Grish Chondro Shaha. I am his partner. We have no other partner. We have also the Nalikool still. We only sell these three kinds of liquor. We sell none at four, five or six annas. About $\frac{2}{16}$ths of our sales are at ten annas, $\frac{3}{8}$ths at nine annas, and $\frac{11}{16}$ths at eight annas. Two-sixteenths of the 10 annas liquor is drunk here and $\frac{14}{16}$ths taken away Of the 9 annas $\frac{1}{16}$th is drunk here and $\frac{15}{16}$ths taken away. Of the 8 annas liquor half is drunk here and half taken away. A quarter of those who drink here belong to the higher and three quarters to the lower classes. $\frac{2}{16}$ths are travellers, and $\frac{14}{16}$ths belong to this country. Those who take liquor away take six bottles. They take it away home to drink, not into the town. Women do not drink here. They take liquor away. I mean prostitutes, not respectable women. No women of the *choto lok* drink, nor little boys. Most of those who drink are from 25 to 30 years of age. Not many from 18 to 20. I put in each jar—

Molasses	...	...	...	30 seers.
Water	...	...	...	30 „
Spent wash	...	...	...	30 „
		Total	...	90 seers or 22½ gallons.

Nothing else. I use *shachee goor*, which is cane sugar, and this date sugar, *nagaree*, from which the sugar is not extracted, nor is it from the *shachee*. *Shachee* costs Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per maund; *nagaree* costs from Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-4. I use mostly *nágaree*. I mix, as without *shachee*, the liquor is not clear. I use 1 seer of *shachee* and 29 seers *nágaree*. We get more liquor out of *goor* with the sugar in it than without. A good outturn with sugar is from 20 to 22 bottles and without sugar 12 to 14 bottles. When the sugar has been extracted, we call it *kootra*. It is from the date. Cane sugar from which sugar has been extracted is called *shachee mát*. It costs Rs. 2-8 per maund. *Kootra goor* costs Rs. 2-8, 2-12 and Rs. 3. I fumigate the jars with straw only. The receiver is empty and dry. In cold weather fermentation takes 15 days; in very hot weather 8 to 10 days. I never put jars in the sun. They would break in the carrying. This is *dhima goor*—cane sugar from the west, Hindostan (dry cake). It costs Rs. 5. It is also called *bhelee*, which does not come from this country. *Shachee* with sugar is called *shár* and without sugar *mát*. I do not use more fluid in cold weather. I know more fluid makes better liquor, but not so much.

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Examination of Ramee Mochee, aged 30.—I live in Singoor bazar. I have lived here for five or six months only. I drink this outstill liquor at the still. The price is eight annas the bottle. I drink half a bottle, four annas worth, two or three times a month and get well drunk. I can get up and go away. I fall down with it, and cannot get up. I cannot eat rice after drinking a four-anna pot. Sometimes drink only two pice worth, on which I should be happy, but able to do my work. Our women do not drink. I sometimes vomit from drink. Not blue vomit. No pain in stomach.

[The delegate of the Indian Association wishes to enquire as to symptoms of copper poisoning.]

Examination of Jhoroo Keyora, aged 22.—I live in Singoor bazar. I drink both spirits and *taree*, but mostly *taree*. I have drunk both the former shop liquor and the present still liquor. One is just as good as the other. When I can afford it I drink spirits, and when I can't, I drink *taree*. Shop liquor cost always a rupee, neither more nor less. The present liquor costs eight or ten annas. I drink both at the still and at home. At the still I drink twelve or fourteen pice worth. I do not get very drunk. I get *goolábee nisha*. I can go home and eat my rice and do my work, but not very much. I never get headache or vomiting or pain in the stomach. I work in the fields. I drink about twice a month. I do not see Keyora women drink, but I believe they do drink when there is liquor in the *baree*. They did so in the shop days also. I carry *goor* for the still.

Examination of Bhootnath Keyora, aged 30.—I live here. Am a daily labourer. I drink spirits sometimes, not *taree*. When there was a shop, liquor cost Re. 1 and Re. 1-4. I used to drink it. Liquor now costs eight and ten annas, not less than eight annas. I drink both at home and at the still. At the still I drink six or eight pice worth. Not more. I can do my work upon it. I should not fall down. Keyora women never drink. When there is liquor in their houses, elderly women drink. They drank also before there was an outstill. I am never unwell after drinking, get no headache or nausea or bellyache. No little boys drink. I have a wife, but no children.

Examination of Kadam, a woman.—I have lived in this bazar many days There are many houses of women here. None have come newly. No new ones this year. I have lived here all my life. I am a widow. [In reply to the delegate.] Since this still was opened, two or four women have come here to live newly. The former liquor was good. The present liquor causes some uneasiness, and I have left it off. It causes burning in the stomach, headache, and irritation of the skin. The man who used to come to me is dead, and no others come. There are more people tipsy now, and there is quarrelling and bloodshed. I have seen a head bleeding. I do not know whose. He was a foreigner. I have once seen a man lying naked on the road with his head bleeding.

Examination of Shyama Choron Bhookto Koibortto, aged 30, *labourer.*—I used not to drink spirits or *taree*. Have taken to drink now because it is cheap. My ear was cut off by a drunken man, and there was a case about it at Serampoor. The case was dismissed because we were both drunk. I was drunk. I did not drink *taree* before because it burns the stomach, and one cannot eat rice. Spirit also burns the stomach.

[From his manner of giving evidence I concluded this man to be untrustworthy.]

Examination of Piyaree Mohun Bhatacharjee, aged 42, *pundit of school, president of Hari Sabha.*—I wrote the letter to the Indian Association. I have 100 or 150 tenants about a mile from here. They took relief in the famine eight or nine years ago, and pledged their property. They afterwards became prosperous again. Now from drinking spirits there is distress in three or four of their *barees*. When I went for my rents, the women said there was no money, that all had been spent in drink. This was in Shombhoo Bagdee's house, Gopal Barik Bagdee's, Mohesh Bagdee's, and Sham Madhob Koibortto's. In no other houses did I hear of it. I do not know whether Shombhoo drank before, or Gopal, or Mohesh, or Shyam. I only know what I have said. It was only when asking for rent that I heard this. I do not know myself of debts contracted. I have heard it from Poreshnath Chatterjee. Here at the school I see new prostitutes going for water. There are five or six new women. Others came to this *para* and have gone away again. I should say there were twenty houses of them before in the bazar. About thirty women. There are now about forty. There were before four or five in this *para*. There are now twelve or thirteen, perhaps 10. There are in all the *paras* about forty, formerly thirty. A married woman of a *bhodro lok* family has left her home and gone away as a prostitute to another place. I object to giving names. I see many more people drunk since the still has been here. When I was a boy there was a still. I then saw one or two people fallen on the road—low caste people. There was afterwards a shop. People drank then. Now they drink more. Liquor cost formerly Re. 1-4, but now costs eight annas. In September a boy was expelled from the school for drinking. Shyama Choron Acharjya, a Brahmin, aged eleven or twelve. He has no father. He ran away, because he was punished by his grandfather for drinking, and has not come back. Among the drunken people on the road, I do not see women, but I hear low class women drink. I see boys among them. I also see boys of from five to thirteen drinking at the still with their fathers. The woman who went away got drunk. I saw her. There was only one woman. She was drunk in the village here with a number of drunken men before she went away. I know of two other women—one married and one a widow, *bhodro lok*—who have left their homes. They got drunk and went away. I saw them drunk in the *besica-para* (prostitutes' quarter). I fancy they got drunk at home and then went to the *besica-para*. One was in Agrahayan, and one in Magh; and one in the rains. All three went away with men. From our village I have not known such a case for ten years

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before. It may happen in other villages. I have not heard of it. Drunken people sometimes come into the school compound in lots of five or six. Five or six times I have seen them fall on the ground at one or two in the afternoon.

Examination of Abhinash Chondro Bandopadhya, Brahmin, aged 45.—I live at Nondonbatee, two miles from this. I am a native doctor. I have lived there for 20 years. This used to be the nearest liquor shop. I drink neither spirits nor *taree*. There are *bhodro lok* in the village, Brahmans, Kayasths and Boidyas. A few of them drink. Three-eighths of them used to drink, but now five-eighths. Of the low class people—Bagdees and Koiborttas—three-sixteenths used to drink, but now twelve-sixteenths drink spirits from this still. Some of them drink *taree*. Musalmans drink *taree*, not spirits. *Taree* is only available for three or four months. It is made in the houses, not bought in shops. People drink spirits whether *taree* is available or not. I see them tumble on the road. They use bad language, and speak short to *bhodro lok*, sometimes fight among themselves, and fall naked. I once saw a man lying naked on the road—a Bagdee—Badool Bagdee. He used to drink, but now drinks more. Many who used to drink *taree* now drink spirits, and half the twelve annas have lately begun to drink. Liquor used to cost a rupee the bottle I hear. I do not know the present price. I hear people say it is cheap. I hear a few women among the *choto lok* drink but whether they drank before or not I do not know. I have not seen any little boys drunk. The tipsy people I see are coming from the still. Others drink at home. I heard that a respectable woman going along the road alone met five or six tipsy men, who wanted to seize her and she ran away. I do not know her caste. It was about 5 P.M. It was twelve or fourteen days ago. She belonged to Boorooshantee, half a mile from here, north. She was coming to fetch water from this Baboo's tank. I know no other case. I have heard of tipsy men going into shops and to the school. I never heard of any going into premises after women. I hear petty thefts of potatoes and the like have become more common. I have not heard of respectable women being depraved through drink.

Examination of Ishwar Chandra Das, Koibortto, aged 65, *lakhirajdar*.—I live at Balrambatee, two miles south-west of this. I believe all the Keyoras, Harees, Bagdees, and the like in my village drink both *taree* and spirits, but most of them spirits. More drink this year. Three-sixteenths or four-sixteenths used not to drink at all All drink now. Sometimes I see them. I once saw two or three lying on the road to Singoor. They were Bagdees of Anonorambatee. I heard that they used to drink before. There used to be drunken people, but not so many as now. Women are frightened at the language of tipsy men and run away, but I know of no case of attempt to seize them. I know of no case of tipsy men going into *barees* after women, nor of respectable women being depraved by drink. I know of none leaving home. They may drink secretly. I hear of thefts of brinjals, potatoes, and the like. They occurred in previous years, but were not so numerous.

Examination of Seetaram Bhatacharjea, aged 28.—I live at Singoor, on what my elder brother earns in the Commissariat. This paper was signed by seventeen people in my presence, in Boisakh, to forswear the use of liquor and tobacco. No. 5 has smoked tobacco, and not gone away. Does not drink. No. 11 has drunk liquor and gone away—no one knows where. No. 14 has drunk and gone to Bally. No. 17 has drunk and gone to Rungpoor. Four of the seventeen have broken the pledge. The number of drunken people has increased greatly this year. The pledge was taken as soon as the outstill was established. (The following is the document handed to me by deponent)

আমাদের প্রতিজ্ঞাপত্র।

আমি শ্রীহরিকে মস্তকে রাখিয়া এই প্রতিজ্ঞা করিতেছি যে ব্যাধি ব্যতীত কখন কোন প্রকার মাদক দ্রব্য সেবন করিব না। যদি কখন কোন বন্ধুকে উক্ত দোষে দোষী দেখিতে পাই, তাহা হইলে তাঁহাকে তদ্‌পরিহারার্থ তাহার চরণ ধারণ করিতে পরাঙ্মুখ হইব না। ইতি।

	নাম।	ধাম।	তারিখ।
১।	শ্রীআশুতোষ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়	সিংহুর	১১ই বৈশাখ। ৯৪
২।	শ্রীনগেন্দ্রনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়	ঐ	,, ঐ
৩।	শ্রীগকুলচন্দ্র বাগ	ঐ	,, ঐ
৪।	শ্রীমন্মথনাথ চক্রবর্ত্তী	ঐ	,, ঐ
৫।	শ্রীমহীন্দ্রনাথ চট্টোপাধ্যায়	ঐ	,, ঐ
৬।	শ্রী শ্রীকণ্ঠনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়	ঐ	,, ঐ
৭।	শ্রীভূতনাথ বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়	ঐ	,, ঐ
৮।	শ্রীভূতনাথ চট্টোপাধ্যায়	ঐ	,, ঐ
৯।	শ্রীবিপিনবেহারী চক্রবর্ত্তী	ঐ	,, ঐ
১০।	শ্রীশ্যামাচরণ আর্য্য	ঐ	,, ঐ
১১।	শ্রীরাসবেহারী চক্রবর্ত্তী	ঐ	,, ঐ
১২।	শ্রীমহেন্দ্রনাথ ভট্টাচার্য্য	শ্রীরামপুর	১৭ই বৈশাখ।
১৩।	শ্রীতিনকড়ি চট্টোপাধ্যায়	দলুইগাছা	২০শে বৈশাখ।
১৪।	শ্রী ভালানাথ সিংহ	সিংহুর	,, ঐ
১৫।	শ্রীঅনুকুলচন্দ্র মুখোপাধ্যায়	ঐ	১৭ই জ্যৈষ্ঠ।

৬। প্রতিজ্ঞা পালন করা।

দ্বিতীয় উদ্দেশ্য।

নানা প্রকার পুস্তক পাঠ ও তাহা হইতে জ্ঞাত করা।

SINGOOR;
16*th February* 1888.

19th February 1888,

GOOJARSHAH.

From Singoor I proceeded to Calcutta. On the 19th February I went by rail to Hooghly, and thence rode fourteen miles to camp at Dwarbasinee. I made inquiries on the road, especially at a place between Polba and Dwarbasinee, which they called Goojarshah, but which I do not see on the map. There a number of Mahomedans said that there was very little drinking, and that the little there was, was principally *taree* made at home. That the price of shop liquor was from fourteen annas upwards, and that now the price was eight annas. That the lower classes no doubt drank more because it was cheap, but not very much. That Mahomedans did not drink liquor.

20th February,

DWARBASINEE.

On the 20th February I visited the outstill at Dwarbasinee. The site is unobjectionable. It is near the road from Dwarbasinee to the south, a hundred yards from it, and about half a mile south of Dwarbasinee hât, where there is a market every Sunday and Wednesday. There is no *bustee*, and there are no huts about it. I am told by the Excise Inspector that the still is allowed 24 and 36 jars each of 10 gallons. He has 31, each measuring 9 gallons and a copper still, measuring 22 gallons and marked accordingly. I tested liquor as follows:—

Sample No.	Price.			
Sample No. 1.	6 annas ...	in jar ...	...	12·4° below proof.
Ditto 2.	5 ditto ...	do. ...	...	32·5° „
Ditto 3.	4 ditto ...	do. ...	...	38·7° „

The following figures are taken from the account books:—

		Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sales.	
		Mds.	srs.	Gals.	bots.	Gals.	bots.
April	1887	48	8	265	4⅔	253	0
May	„	49	0	248	1⅓	253	0
June	„	48	22	204	4⅓	195	5⅓
July	„	23	10	106	3⅓	89	0⅓
August	„	22	10	99	2⅓	92	4⅓
September	„	26	23	127	4	131	3⅓
October	„	22	0	99	2⅓	99	4
November	„	16	20	71	0	74	4
December	„	15	20	75	3	103	3
January	1888	20	20	114	1	102	0
		292	13	1,412	3¼	1,395	1

Examination of Oomesh Chandro Shaha.—The license is in the name of Ishwar Chunder Shaha, my relation. I am his servant, not partner. I do not know whether he has any partner. The fee is Rs. 150. I sell during the month.

5 or 6 bottles	...	at 12 annas each.
5 or 6 „	...	„ 10 „ „
30 or 40 „	...	„ 8 „ „
4/16 of the rest of my sales	...	„ 6 „ „
4/16 of the rest of my sales	...	„ 5 „ „
8/16 of the rest of my sales	...	„ 5 „ „

I only make twelve-anna liquor specially to order, five or six bottles per month. Of the ten-anna also five or six bottles to order. Of the eight-anna five or seven gallons. I use *shár goor* and *kootra goor*. *Shár goor* is date sugar of this country from which the sugar is not extracted (produced). It costs Rs. 2-12 or Rs. 3 the maund. I have no *kootra goor* in stock. It is date sugar which comes from Shantipoor in Nuddea, the sugar being extracted. The price is Rs. 2-4. I buy it from traders who bring it here. I also use *sháchee goor* (shows some); it is cane sugar from the west. The sugar is not extracted. The price is Rs. 4. I use principally *shár goor*. It is also called *nágoree*. I put in each jar—

Molasses	...	10 seers.
Water	...	20 „
Spent wash	...	10 „
Total	...	40 „ or 10 gallons.

The *bákar* I only put into the wash occasionally. The 10 seers consist of 9½ seers *shár* and ½ *sháchee*, also called *bhelee*. It ferments in eight or nine days now, and in hot weather in six days. It sometimes takes ten days in cold weather. I never put it out in the sun.

I use one jar for each distillation, which takes about two hours. I can distil six times a day, if necessary. From six to eight bottles come out each distillation. The six-anna liquor is both drunk here or taken home. Five times the amount drunk here is taken home. Both *choto lok* and *bhodro lok* drink it. Of the five-anna liquor one bottle is drunk here and four taken away. Of the four-anna liquor nearly all is taken away—only one bottle drunk here for twenty-four taken away. Of all kinds most is taken away. Very few Baboos drink here. Bowrees, Bagdees, Doolees, Keyoras, who are the same as Harees, drink here and also take liquor away. One or two Mahomedans drink, but not many. People spend six or eight pice here, not more, each man. On eight pice a man gets intoxicated (*nisha*), but can walk home; even of the six-anna liquor. Those who drink much fall on the road. Twelve pice worth of six-anna liquor will make a man fall. I do not give them so much, because they would fall. I give as long as I see they can walk, and give no more when they are likely to fall. I was not here in the shop-days. The shop-keeper was a Sodgop, Motee Lal Soor. He does not live here now. *Dhima goor* is the western *goor* which I have shown. No women or children come here. Whether they drink at home or not I do not know. I use no tamarinds. I stir up the wash two or three times a day in the cold season. I sell sometimes on credit.

Examination of Rajoo Bouree, aged 40.—I live here. I have drunk liquor as long as I can remember. There used to be a shop here, and liquor cost Re. 1 and Re. 1-4 the bottle. It now costs six and twelve annas. I drink here and do not take liquor home. I drink two or three pice worth. I can drink eight pice worth. I can do my work on two or three pice worth. I should not fall on eight pice. I could work and eat my rice. Bowree women do not drink here. I do not know of Haree or Jaliya women drinking. The shop liquor was better than the present liquor, which has a smell as *khejoor goor* has. It does not seize the head nor create nausea (*hákál*). No children drink.

Examination of Nolit Chand Bagdee, aged 30.—I live at Meriya, six miles from here to the east, and two miles north of Polba thana. I have drunk liquor for three years. I get liquor here and at Mugra. I take liquor home. Here I pay six annas and at Mugra a rupee. The Mugra liquor is better. The liquor here is weak, but it is clear and not bad otherwise than weak. It has no smell and causes no headache. In *choto lok's barees* some women drink, not only this year, but before. Liquor is now cheaper, which is happy for the people. If the still is closed, people will not be able to drink. I take six bottles home at a time. It is weak liquor; six annas the bottle. Five men can get drunk off one bottle of the Mugra liquor: three off this liquor; not drunk enough to fall, or to be unable to eat rice. Off two bottles of this liquor three men could get so drunk as to fall and be insensible. Five would be equally drunk off a bottle and a half of Mugra liquor. When I take six bottles it is for Baboos, once or twice a month. Thay send me with money. Five or six Baboos send me for a gallon of liquor.

Examination of Syad Ihtisad Hosen, aged 47, *second master of the school.*—It is a middle class English school. I live a mile from here. I have been nineteen years in this school. There are 55 or 56 boys. Last Joishto or Ashar Shatendra Nath Bes, a boy of the school (aged 12) drank. I did not see him drunk. I heard it next day. I did not punish him, but warned him. He has not drunk since. No other boy has drunk. With him two others drank—Bhola Nath Sarkar (aged 12) and Abdool Lateef (aged 11 or 12). They all drank that one day and not since. No other schoolboys have drunk. I have never seen other boys, who were not schoolboys, drunk. I see people drunk on the road. The still was opened in Boishakh. In Joishto I saw a man lying drunk and insensible on the road. I saw more in Ashar, and about eight altogether. The day before yesterday at 1-30 P M. I saw one. In the shop-days I never once saw such a thing. I am not out on Sundays (market days), and on Wednesdays do not see more tipsy people than other days. I see tipsy people on the road once every three or four days, four or five of them, staggering, using obscene language, and singing. I see many merely merry with drink. I see 20 or 25 in the month slightly tipsy, and 20 or 25 staggering drunk. A few are *bhodro lok*, but $\frac{5}{16}$ are *choto lok*. In the shop-days I never saw drunken people—never once. I never see women or boys drunk. Very few Mahomedans drink about here. Some make *taree* in Choitro and drink it at home. There is no *taree* shop in this neighbourhood. I never heard of women being annoyed by drunken men, nor of trespassing into *barees*. I know nothing of thefts. I lend money to people who use the plea that money is spent on drink, and that the women and children have nothing to eat.

Examination of Priyonath Bhotobya, Brahman, aged 36. I am naib of Joy Krishna Mookerjee of Ooterpara. I have been here nine months. I was before at home at Khanakoo in the sub-division of Jahanabad. In nine months I have seen four or five people lying drunk on the road. One was a Kamar. All were low-class people. I have not seen other tipsy people—no women nor boys. I have heard from the ryots and gomashtas that money is not forthcoming for rent and for maintenance of families, because of the amount spent in drink. In houses of Koiborttos, Bagdees, and Harees many drink. I think $\frac{1}{16}$ths of them drink. I believe they drink every other day, or every third day. I hear they drink four, six, and eight pice worth at a time. I believe they spend over Rs. 2 per month in drink. I hear this as an excuse for non-payment of rent. I know of no cases of women being annoyed or of trespassing into *barees*. I know of no quarrelling among drunken people.

Examination of Kaminee Koomar Sen, Boidyo, aged 35.—I have been here ten years. I used to be a civil hospital assistant in Government service. For four years I have been in

20th February 1888, DWARBASINEE.

private practice. I resigned the service for want of promotion. I see many more people tipsy now than I used to, ten to one, but many of them previously drank at home, and I estimate the actual increase in the number of drinkers at fifty per cent. I saw people drunk occasionally before. In ten months I have seen three drunk and insensible on the road. Before I have seen people tumbling about, but not insensible. I see four or five every three or four days going along singing and using bad language, especially at night. It happened before occasionally. I know of no annoyance to women or trespassing into *barees*. Prostitutes drink at home. I do not see women drunk, nor boys. There is sometimes a noise at night in prostitutes' houses ; more than there used to be. I hear that the present liquor smells bad—smells of smoke. I have heard nothing tending to suspicion of the use of evil drugs of any kind. This liquor produces headache and nausea, as all liquor does.

In the evening I walked about the village of Dwarbasinee, talking to the people. A Mahomedan told me that Mahomedans did not drink, even *taree*. That some of the *choto lok* drank, but by no means all, and he was not aware that they drank more since the outstill was opened, though, as liquor was cheaper, it was probable. He said that not many drunken people were seen about the village. He certainly had no feeling that drunkenness had assumed appalling proportions. He seemed a respectable, intelligent man.

21st February, BHASTORA.

On the 21st February I rode about seven miles to Bhastora outstill. It is on the road from Boinchee Railway station (which is seven miles off) to the bazar, from which it is distant about fifty yards. There is a market on Tuesdays and Fridays. The distiller is allowed 16 and 24 jars of 10 gallons each. I measured one (inclined to hold less than nine gallons. He has a copper still measuring 18 gallons. It has not been marked. I tested the liquor—

Sample No.	Price.		Below proof.
1.	Six annas	in jar ...	32·2°
2.	„ „	„ do. ...	40·5°
3.	Five „	in cask	42·4°
4.	„ „	„ jar ...	41·9°
5.	„ „	„ do. ...	44·7°
6.	„ „	„ do. ...	44·1°
7.	„ „	„ do. ...	43· °
8.	„ „	„ do. ...	33·5°

The following figures are taken from the account book:—

	Molasses used. Mds.	Srs.	Outturn. Gals.	Bots.	Sale. Gals.	Bots.
April 1887	20	3	128	0	113	2
May	20	20	135	5	126	1
June	18	28	125	0	127	5
July	17	13	111	0	70	3
August	7	6	46	5	71	0
September	16	31	104	4	84	1
October	15	5	91	1	120	3
November	15	6	64	3	82	5
December	17	2	99	2	78	4
January 1888	13	19	73	4	60	0
	161	13	980	0	935	0

Examination of Gooshto Beharee Shaha, Soonree, license-holder.—I have no partner. My monthly fee is Rs. 107. I have only these two kinds of liquor, which I sell at five and six annas. I sometimes sell eight-anna liquor, but have no customers for it. I have no account of sales of eight-anna liquor. I have sold about seven or eight gallons only in the last ten months. I never sell at ten annas. Most people take liquor home. A quarter is drunk here and three-quarters taken home. Those who drink here are principally *choto lok*—only one or two *bhodro lok*—Brahmans, Kayasths, and the like. Those who take liquor home are also principally *choto lok*—Bagdees, Doolees, and Bourees—no one else. No Mahomedans. Those who drink here take from six to eight pice worth. They take away from half a bottle to two bottles, not five or six bottles. They do not all get drunk on eight pice. None get drunk enough to fall. No one ever falls drunk, nor becomes insensible. No women drink. In the jar I put—

Molasses ...	... 11 seers.
Water ...	... 18 „
Spent wash ...	... 11 „
Total	... 40 seers or 10 gallons.

The *goor* is date molasses, *mát*, with the sugar extracted. It costs Rs. 2-4 per maund. *Kootra goor* is also used. I have none now in stock. It costs Rs. 3-8. It comes from Chandpoor in Nuddea. It is date sugar. More solid. I also use cane sugar, costing Rs. 2-4; *mát, sháchee mát*, sugar extracted; *dhima* is also cane sugar, sugar not extracted. The 11 seers are made up thus:—

5 seers *khejurer mát.*
3 „ *sháchee mát.*
2 „ *kootra.*
1 „ *dhima.*

Fermentation takes seven or eight days in hot weather and twelve or thirteen in cold. I never put the jars out in sun. I do not use more fluid in cold weather than in hot. I never use tamarind. I only stir the wash the day after putting it in the jar.

Examination of Gooroo Choron Bouree, aged 45.—I live at Bhastora. I have always drunk liquor. When I do not get liquor I drink *taree*. I used to drink shop liquor. It used to cost twelve and fourteen annas and a rupee—three kinds. It now costs five, six, and eight annas. I used to drink twelve pice worth—a quarter of a bottle: now I drink twelve pice worth, and can share it with the women and children at home. I drink here and go and fall down at home. When friends come to see me, I take liquor home. I could not entertain them otherwise. I drink as much as fifteen or sixteen pice at once. I should not get well drunk on that. I am sardar of coolies. I drink nearly every day—every day or two. I always drink according to my earnings. The present liquor is somewhat weaker. It is not bad so as to make one ill, and has no smell. It causes no headache or nausea.

Examination of Protap Bouree, aged 30.—I live at Bhastora. I live by digging earth. I have no land. I have drunk liquor for about five years. I drink *taree* when any one gives it to me in Boisakh. There is no *taree* shop. I never buy it. I used to drink liquor from the shop here. It costs twelve and fourteen annas and a rupee—three kinds. It now costs five, six and eight annas, principally five annas. I do drink ten pice worth at a time—half a bottle. I sometimes drink here, sometimes at home. Our women and children drink. My father, drank, and I hear my grandfather did. I drink more now that liquor is cheap. Bourees always drank, whether liquor was cheap or dear. I drink after every day or two. The eight-anna liquor is good. The five-anna has a smell and produces *hákál*. It smells of smoke—nothing else. I do not know why weak liquor should produce nausea.

Examination of Tinkouree Doolee, aged 45.—I live at Bhastora, and drink liquor. My father and grandfather drank. No Doolee women drink, nor boys. There is no *taree* shop here, and I cannot get it, or else I should drink it. The shop liquor used to cost ten, twelve, and fourteen annas and a rupee. I drank ten and twelve annas. It now costs five annas. The former liquor was better. The present is weak. It has no smell, nor does it produce nausea, nor headache. I drink four, five, and six pice worth, according to what I can afford. I drink both here and at home.

Examination of Chondi Choron Ghose, sub-inspector of police of Dhanyakhalee thanna.—I have been at Dhanyakhalee for four months; was formerly at Pondooa for about three years. I have seen that drunkenness has increased here within the last four months. I have heard it from people. In the six months from April to September at Pondooa I saw many more drunken people than before among the lower classes—Bourees, Doolees, Bagdees, Harees, Musalmans, Dhawars (Musalmans who are palkee-bearers). They drank before, but drink more since liquor became cheap. I consider that I see sixteen drunk for six I saw before. More tipsy people are seen on the roads and ghâts. I heard that outstill liquor went by train from Boinchee and Pondooa into the town, but I never caught it. I saw prostitutes drunk at Pondooa, but no other women. I have heard that *bhodro lok* women drink at home. I have heard complaints at Pondooa that women could not go to the ghât for fear of drunken men on the road, but I never heard the name of any woman who had been annoyed. It was from *Beniyapara*, part of Pondooa, that I heard this.

Examination of Rajendro Lal Koomar Sodgop, aged 40, *head master of the higher class English school.*—I have been master of the school for ten years. There are about 90 boys on the rolls. I have no reason to suspect any of them of drinking. I live about three miles off at Goorap. I see many drunken men going along the road. No women, nor boys. I see more drunken men this year than I used to see. I have seen two lying on the road, and two staggering in the last ten months. I have seen people with bottles coming for liquor, but have only seen those four drunk. I go home at four, and drunken people would go home later. Many people in my village drink. More people drink this year than before—low caste people. Higher class people generally drink privately at night. They drink more than they used to. I have heard that women of Goshala, two miles from here, *bhodro lok*, drink, Brahmans. It has probably become habitual with them. My reason for thinking that drinking has increased is that I see more bottles brought to this outstill than I saw formerly. I do not recollect seeing drunken people on the road formerly, but probably there were instances in the course of the last ten years. I have never seen gangs of drunken men going along making a noise. Such things generally take place at night. I know of no cases of young men lately taking to drink, nor of distress in families. Much money is spent on drink, and therefore there must be less to spend on food. I know of no family in which the women and children want food.

Examination of Soshee Bhoosun Mitro, Kayasth, aged 32, *officiating teacher of the school.*—I have seen boys taking away bottles of drink. I did not see them drink it or drunk. A boy told me he drank it. He is a son of Breja Doolee, under 12 years of age. I

21st February 1888,. BHASTORA.

have seen crowds of drunkards together in front of this outstill, whenever I come for a walk, about six or seven times in a month, in the afternoon. I have seen no women among them. A Bouree woman has asked me for money to buy liquor. This was yesterday. That only occurred once. She asked for daily labour because she wanted drink. She is a widow, aged about 45.

[This man produced a copy of a memorial against the outstill which he and others sent to the Lieutenant-Governor before the still was opened. He has a strong feeling against the outstill.]

Examination of Nirod Koomar Singh, Kayasth, aged 44, *medical practitioner.*—I see more people drunk. I was born here, and I always lived here. I rarely saw drunken people before; now I see them constantly. I see, them, not fallen on the ground, but going along the road. They are staggering and singing, and have bottles with them. I see this nearly every time I go out. I see no women, but have seen boys after drinking. Two or three boys of 10 or 11—Doolees. People have taken straw from my *baree* to exchange for liquor. They did not say that they would sell it to buy liquor. I know of a Bouree boy going to school with pice, two annas, for his schooling fee, and his father took it from him for drink. I have heard from women that they are distressed for food, because more money is spent on liquor since it became cheap. Many drink on market days. Before this year I did not see such *golmal.* Some drank, but not so many. I see them here. The shop used to be at the same place as the outstill is now.

Examination of Okhoy Koomar Modok, Moira, aged 30, *shopkeeper.*—I see more drunken people since liquor became cheap, double what there were before—*choto lok*; no women. Drunken men strike on the closed shops as they pass. Drunken men use abusive and indecent language to respectable people's women and on the road.

Examination of Oghor Chondro Mookerjee, aged 39, *teacher in the school.*—Drunken people pass my door using shocking language. I saw a Doolee come home drunk. His wife cried and abused the outstill system. A piece of cloth was stolen from my house. I hear that it was given for liquor to the outstill man by one Seera Haree, a notorious drunkard. I do not know how long he has drunk. I judge that his drinking habits have increased because he has stolen my cloth.

22nd February, MANA.

I returned from Bhastora to camp at Dwarbasinee. On the 22nd February I rode to Pondooa Railway station. People at Mana and elsewhere said that they did not see drunken people about the road. I see no *taree* shops in this part of the country. From Pondooa I proceeded by rail to Calcutta. On the 23rd February I proceeded by rail to Hooghly, and thence rode to Sainya, where there is an outstill. On the way I talked to the people. At Khashtora they are all Mahomedans. They say they use neither spirits nor *taree.* That there used to be a shop there, but that it has been closed. They say they never see drunken people coming along the road, which is a main road, metalled, from Hooghly to the west. The Excise Inspector says that this is called Horit outstill, for the curious reason that it was found impossible to let one at Horit, so it was opened here, a mile away. The site is on the road aforesaid. The Inspector says that the still is allowed 24 and 36 jars of 10 gallons each. He has actually 35, measuring 13 gallons. Eleven of them are empty. The earthen still being at work I could not measure it.

23rd February, KHASHTORA. SAINYA.

I tested the liquor—

Sample, No.	Price.				
1.	Six annas	...	...	...	40·4° below proof.
2.	Ditto	...	...	...	43·5° „
3.	Ditto	in jar ...	...	...	38·6° „
4.	Ditto	...	...	...	37·6° „
5.	Ditto	...	...	...	39·9° „

The average strength is 40 below proof. The following figures are taken from the distiller's book :—

	Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sales.	
	Mds.	seers.	Gals.	bots.	Gals.	bots.
April 1887	39	3½	178	0	167	0
May	31	8	124	0	127	0
June	39	23	182	4	185	1
July	22	24	117	0	103	0
August	25	1	83	0	79	3
September	17	22	68	0	81	3
October	21	11	70	3	76	4
November	18	24	65	3	63	0
December	15	10	60	0	64	0
January 1888... ...	17	0	82	3	72	4
Total ...	247	6½	1,037	1	1,019	3

Examination of Okhoy Chonder Shaha, licensee.—I have no partner. I pay a monthly fee of Rs. 150. Last year I had a shop at Khadina in Hooghly. I put in each jar— 23rd February 1888, SAINYA.

Molasses	...	...	...	...	10 seers.
Water	...	...	...	...	20 „
Spent wash	...	...	...	...	10 „
			Total	...	40 seers, or 10 gallons.

I only use *bakar* occasionally when necessary after the first commencement of fermentation in April. In the cold weather fermentation takes ten or twelve days, in hot five or six days. It is never complete in four days. I have only one kind of liquor. I sell at six annas to people from a distance, and at seven to those near by. There are no *bhodro lok* here. Only *choto lok* drink. About three-fourths of my liquor is taken away and one-fourth drunk here. People take away from one to six bottles—six bottles for marriages and the like. They do not sell in the mofussil. A man drinks from six to twelve pice worth here. A man will be well drunk on twelve pice, but will not fall down. The drinkers are Bagdees, Doms, Harees, Mochees, Koonras, Dhangors, and Bourees. Most of my customers belong to the neighbourhood, and are not travellers. One distillation gives fourteen or fifteen bottles at this season. I make no allowance in price for taking six bottles. I use mostly *kootra goor* from Chandpoor, *mát* from which the sugar has been extracted. *Shar goor* is the same as *shachee*. In each maund I use five seers of *shachee* and 35 seers of *kootra*. From *shachee* the sugar has not been extracted. People of these parts drink *taree*, but, there is none now. The *taree* shop was closed when the outstill was opened. It was at Khashtora.

Examination of Kheto Keyora, aged 35.—I have twenty bighas of land. I have drunk liquor for ten years. My father drunk liquor also. This outstill liquor costs six annas. I drink ten or twelve pice worth at a time. I can go home and eat my rice after it and not fall down. There used to be a shop here always. Liquor cost a rupee and fourteen annas, never twelve annas. I never drank *taree*; not from the shop at Khashtora. This outstill liquor is not so strong as the shop liquor was. It has a smell. The previous liquor had not. The smell of it is the smell of liquor. It does not cause headache or bellyache or nausea.

[*Odhoy Keyora's* statements corroborate those of the last witness.]

Examination of Pooron Chandro Nondee, Teelee, aged 32.—I have had a shop here for many years. I see many people drunk here; one or two in a month fall on the road. I see from five to twenty go along tipsy daily. I see some every day. I saw drunken people in the shop-days, but for four or five days would see none, then would see two or three. They were then principally *bhodro lok*, now they are most of them *choto lok*, only a fourth of them are now *bhodro*. There are not so many *bhodro lok* drinking now as there used to be. I have heard of no annoyance to women from drunken men, nor of trespassing into *barees*, nor of thefts.

Examination of Abhinash Chondro Shet, aged 25.—I have had a shop here for a long time. I see 75 per cent. more drunken men than I used to. I see one or two in a month lying on the ground. I scarcely ever saw this before. I see no women tipsy. I hear of no annoyance to women. I see boys of ten drunk—*choto lok's* sons, not *bhodro*. I see ten or twenty boys drunk every month. I saw one or two boys drunk in the shop-days. The reason more people are seen drunk now is that they have less fear than before. People used to drink secretly. Half the *bhodro lok* are now drunkards, and therefore people are less ashamed to be seen drunk.

From Sainya I rode on to camp at Dwarbasinee, six miles. On the 24th February, I remained at Dwarbasinee. The native doctor in charge of the dispensary, which is on the road, says that he has only seen one man tipsy during the two months he has been here. My chuprasees say they have not seen a tipsy man since they came out on tour. On the 25th February I rode to Dhanyakhalee, nine miles, making enquiries on the way. At Khejoordaha, which appears to be principally inhabited by Mahomedans, several groups said that they never used spirits or *taree*. That the *choto lok* drink, a few of them, but that they never see any tipsy people about. At Majnay, in two places, Brahmans and Kayasths said the same. At Oodoyganga I heard the same. This place is on a much used road between Dhanyakhalee and Bhastora, on which I met a number of people going to Ghospara in Nuddea for *doljatra* on Monday next. At Mirjanogor, only a mile from Dhanyakhalee, people told me that they saw one or two tipsy people going singing along the road on market days only, but that they never saw any one lying drunk on the road. Arriving at Dhanyakhalee, I find the outstill outside the town on the road to the westward, about two hundred yards from the thanna and market-place, where there is a market on Fridays and Mondays. The outstill is allowed 18 and 27 jars, each of 20 gallons. There are now 21 jars, each measuring

24th February, DWARBASINEE. 25th February, KHEJOORDAHA. MAJNAY. MIRJANOGOR. DHANYAKHALEE.

25th February 1888, DHANYA-KHALEE.

(inclined) 16 gallons. There are two other jars said to be used for molasses only. The still, an earthen one, is restricted to 30 gallons, and actually contains 31 gallons. I tested the liquor—

		Price.					
Sample No.	1.	5 annas	...	in bottle	...	...	22·9° below proof.
„	2.	5 „	...	„ do.	...	...	22·5° „
„	3.	4 „	...	„ cask	...	...	44·6° „

The following figures are taken from the outstill accounts:—

		Molasses used.		Outturn.		Sale.	
		Mds.	Srs.	Gals.	bots.	Gals.	bots.
April	1887	39	28	222	4	213	4
May	„	48	38	269	5	274	3
June	„	47	34	226	3	225	5
July	„	31	36	199	2	192	4
August	„	29	8	168	4	161	0
September	„	33	20	186	2	163	3
October	„	30	0	146	0	185	2
November	„	33	20	164	0	131	0
December	„	29	0	155	4	97	4
January	1888	19	0	84	4	134	4
	Total ...	342	24	1,823	4	1,779	5

Examination of Poorno Chondro Shaha, licensee.—I have no partner. I had a shop here last year. Used to get liquor from Bhastora distillery. I have only these two kinds of liquor. I sell at four and five annas. I never sell above five annas. I sell about 100 bottles only of five-anna liquor in the month, one to every ten of the weaker liquor. I put in each jar—

Molasses	...	...	...	...	20 seers.
Water	...	...	...	...	30 „
Spent wash	...	...	...	...	16 „
					66 seers, or 16½ gallons.

never anything else. No *bakar* since the first start.

I use *shachee goor* and *kootra goor* together. Five seers of *shachee* and fifteen seers *kootra*. No other goor, no *bhelee*. The *shachee* is cane sugar of this country. The *chinee* has been extracted, and I use only the *mat*. It now costs Rs. 2-8, sometimes Rs. 3 the maund; *kootra goor* is from the date from which the *chinee* has been extracted. It is *mat*. Costs Rs. 2-10 now, but Rs. 3-8 sometimes. It comes from Shantipoor in Nuddea. Date sugar will now be obtained in this country. I do not use *nagoree* or *dhima*. Fermentation takes six or seven days now, and in hot weather three or four. I use one jar for each distillation, and get two gallons, or one or two bottles more from it. About fourteen bottles of four-anna liquor, and ten or eleven of five-anna. I lose by the shop. I cannot sell at more than four annas, because liquor is sold at Bahadoorpoor in Burdwan five miles off at from ten to twelve pice, and sometimes nine pice. I used to sell shop liquor at twelve and fourteen annas the bottle. I sold then at a loss. Most of my customers are *choto lok* Those of the *bhodro lok* who drank before, drink now no more. *Choto lok* drink more. About 75 per cent. more. A man drinks four or five pice worth, and will get *goolabee nisha;* he will not fall. One or two people fall drunk if they drink two or three pice more. Half the liquor is drunk here and half taken home. No women or boys drink.

Examination of Beharee Geeree, aged 30.—I live close by here at Harpoor, I drink liquor here. It is four and five annas the bottle. I drink four pice worth of the four-anna liquor, and can do my work and eat my rice after it. For six pice a man will be well drunk and tumble about. I used to drink the shop liquor here at eleven and twelve annas. I could not drink so much then. I never went to Bahadoorpoor for liquor. The liquor now is of the same quality as the shop liquor was before. None of our women or boys drink.

Examination of Greesh Keyora, aged 30, *lime-maker.*—I live half a mile from here. The liquor now is a little weaker than the shop liquor used to be. I drink six pice worth and can do my work after it. I now drink more than I used to. Some of our women may drink if they can get it. I know nothing of it. No boys drink.

Examination of Horish Chondro Chuckerbutty, aged 60.—I have land, and am a priest. I never use liquor. I live at Konan, two miles from here, not near the road. Some of the *choto lok* drink spirits; there is no *taree*. Three or four of them drink after three or four days. I see them go along after drinking. Not *matal*—not staggering. I know they have been drinking because they sing. I think that since the outstill was opened they drink more. The Kooras were not in my country before. They have come this year, and taken land. Before this year there were Doolees who drank. They drink just as they did before. There used to be three or four *bhodro lok* who drank, but they have been dead seven or eight years. None of the *bhodro lok* in my village drink now. I know nothing of women or children drinking. I have never heard of women being annoyed by tipsy people.

25th February 1888, DHANYA-KHALEE.

Examination of Horish Chondro Bhor, Tantee, aged 50.—I live at this place. I weave. I see people tipsy on market days, but not on other days. They tumble about, some of them, and some remain sober (*bhalo*). I see three or four people in a month lying on the road—*choto lok* or *bhodro lok*, but more *bhodro lok*. They drink more than they did. *Choto lok* drink also. In the shop days I saw people tipsy, but did not see so many lying on the road, nor so many *bhodro lok*. I see no women, nor boys of 10 or 12, drinking. They do not drink. I know of no women being annoyed, nor of thefts.

Examination of Bepin Das, Tantee, aged 45.—I live in that house. I used to see 20 or 30 people drink at the shop here in a month. I now see from 50 to 150 in a day. Not every day, but after three or four days, both *bhodro* and *choto*. They lie drunk on the road three or four in a day. I have not seen ten, but I have seen as many as five in a day.

I was coming away, finding no one who took much interest in the matter, when I was accosted by,—

Gobindo Das, Tantee, aged 65, *who deposed as follows.*—I live opposite the outstill. My women cannot go out to get water because of *matal* people singing bad songs. The shop was in the same place. Tipsy people never sang before. I never heard them. Now there are more tipsy people (*matal*). I have seen three or four people lying on the road. Eight or ten days ago I saw two, three or four. I saw two men. It was not market day. I see every day tipsy people, both *choto lok* and *bhodro lok*. I mean by *bhodro lok*, Tantees, not Baboos, not Brahmans or Kayasths. Boys have taken to drink, but I cannot name any. Such boys as read in the school. Boys of both *choto lok* and *bhodro lok*. I cannot say whose sons they are, but I have seen them. I never saw any women among the drinkers.

Examination of Raj Chondro Dutt, Gondhobonik, aged 65.—I have a shop here. I see people come through the bazar after drinking. Not quite every day. They go along making a noise, talking loud and singing. I know of no women being annoyed. They are *choto lok*. I have seen women of the Kooras who have drunk, but are not intoxicated. They go along talking. I see bottles in their hands. In the shop days I did not see tipsy people. I did not see people who had been drinking, because there were not so many *choto lok* who drank. I know of no boy who drinks.

Second examination of Chondee Choron Ghos, sub-inspector of police, whom I examined at Bhastora.—The Kooras they speak of here are earth-diggers from the west from Bankoora, &c. They are Bourees, Dhangors and the like. They have increased in number here. I see many people tipsy here in the bazar on market days, and sometimes on other days. I hear in the mofussil of increased drinking. I hear that people who never drank before have now taken to it.

Examination of Sreenath Das, Tantee, aged 55.—I live here. My son, aged 20, has taken to drink. He never drank before. Drinks since the outstill has made liquor cheap.

Examination of Rojonee Kanto Chatterjee, aged 22, *second master, vernacular school.*—There are about 30 boys in the school. I do not know whether any of them use liquor. I have been here five or six months now, and last year for two or three months.

26th February, DASGHORA.

From Dhanyakhalee I returned to camp at Dwarbasinee. On the 26th February I rode *viâ* Dhanyakhalee to Dasghora, 14 miles. The outstill is at a sufficient distance from the bazar, where there is a market on Sundays and Wednesdays, but it is on the road from the bazar to Tarkeshwar which is much frequented, and it should be removed, as there are none of the travellers from western districts, for whose accommodation roadside liquor shops are required. The licensee is allowed a still of 20 gallons. He has one (earthen) of 16 gallons, which the Inspector has to-day broken in measuring. He is allowed 24 and 36 jars of 10 gallons and has 22 of that size. I tested the liquor—

	Price.		
Sample No. 1.	8 annas	... in jar ...	... 16·5° Below proof.
„ 2.	4 „	... „ do. ...	... 46·8° „

The following figures are taken from the outstill accounts :—

		Molasses used. Mds.	srs.	Outturn. Gals.	bots.	Sales. Gals.	bots.
April	1887 ...	... 16	0	97	0	89	0
May	„ ...	... 21	30	144	0	150	0
June	„ ...	... 25	0	217	0	219	0
July	„ ...	... 17	31	148	0	137	3
August	„ ...	... 20	0	141	0	131	3
September	„ ...	... 16	4	132	0	135	0
October	„ ...	... 10	33	91	0	98	0
November	„ ...	... 19	0	114	4	116	4
December	„ ...	... 11	26	83	0	89	0
January	1888 ...	... 14	0	100	0	98	0
	Total	... 172	4	1,267	4	1,263	4

26th February 1888, DASGHORA.

Examination of Nokoor Chondro Shaha, licensee.—I have no partner. I used to have a shop here for one year. I had it once before, a long time ago. In 1886-87 it was my shop, but in Sreenath Shaha's name. I live in this village. There is an outstill at Tolahazra in the Burdwan district, one mile from here. They sell liquor at ten and twelve pice the bottle. There is also one at Khoosheegunj in Jahanabad, four miles from here, which sells at four and eight annas. I pay a license fee of Rs. 150, and Tolahazra pays Rs. 95. I do not know what Khoosheegunj pays (the Inspector says Rs. 137). I only sell at four and eight annas. I sell one-eighth of my liquor or less at eight annas, and more than seven-eighths at four annas. The eight-anna liquor is taken home by *bhodro lok*—Baboos, Brahmans, and Kayasths. The four-anna liquor is used by *choto lok*. *Bhodro lok* do not use it. One-eighth of the four-anna liquor is drunk here, and seven-eighths is taken away. People drink four or six pice worth here. It does not make them drunk. They can go away. For eight or ten pice a man will be drunk, but will not fall. No one drinks enough to fall here. They all go away home. They are Baurees, Dhangars, Keyoras, Mochees, and Doolees; their women and children do not drink. I put in one jar—

Molasses	...	...	...	15 seers.
Water	...	...	...	8 or 10 „
Spent wash	...	...	...	7 or 8 „
		Total	...	30 to 33 seers, or 8 gallons.

The outturn per distillation is from 13 to 15 bottles of four-anna, or from 6 to 9 of eight-anna liquor. Fermentation now takes four or five days, and in cold weather from eight to nine days. It may be ten days. In hot weather it would go bad in ten days. It is hot weather now. I do not use more fluid in cold or hot weather. I use no *mahawa*, only *goor*. I use *shachee* and *kootra* or *dhima*. In 15 seers I use half *shachee*, half *kootra*, and a quarter of a seer or so of *dhima*. *Dhima* is from *Khagra* from the west (shows dry sugar). It is cane sugar. *Shachee* is cane sugar from this country, from which *chinee* has been extracted. I use the *mat*. *Kootra* is date sugar from which *chinee* has been extracted; *shachee mat* costs Re. 1-12 per maund, and *kootra mat* Rs. 2-4 per maund; *dhima* Rs. 4-8 per maund. I fumigate with straw and mango leaves. I use a dry receiver. I sell liquor at one rupee the gallon with water in it. I do not sell on credit. People do not drink at night. When I had a shop I used to sell at twelve and fourteen annas and a rupee. There was then no still at Tolahazra, but one at Bahadoorpoor in Burdwan. The liquor I sold there was rather better.

I tested one gallon of liquor just sold for a rupee, which he says has been diluted with water, to be 47·3° below proof.

Examination of Ramlal Bose, a Kayasth, aged 45, *medical practitioner.*—People who did not drink before drink now. Two or three people are seen tipsy (*matal*) on the road. I have treated some cases of liver complication. I have seen many women and children of the *choto lok* drink liquor when they were digging a tank near my house. They also quarrelled among themselves. I saw a beggar who had drunk. He was sitting down. I have within two or three months seen two men lying on the road, in the village, not at a festival. They were Bagdees. Not both on the same day. Nearly every day I see people pass my dispensary. They go along talking, some of them stagger. They are *choto lok*. I have seen women nearly every day. The women do not stagger. They have drunk a little and talk a good deal. They talk as if they were tipsy. One case of liver complication has died. I do not know how long he had drunk. He was a Doolee. Another who recovered was a Tantee, who had drunk for many years. People were seen tipsy before, but more now. Before one or two sixteenths of the *choto lok* drank, now four or five sixteenths. I never heard of *bhodro lok* in my village drinking before. They drink now. I have heard that Burdwan liquor was sold at four annas the bottle. They now drink more where there is an outstill. I do not know about places away from the stills.

Examination of Jogendronath Roy, aged 43, *Kayasth, pensioner.*—I retired from Government service from ill-health. I was inspector of police in various districts. I retired from Dacca. I see people drinking here, seven or eight or a dozen, and see tipsy people tumbling about the road, fifteen or twenty times in the month. I was not here last year. There was always a shop here. I see many more people tipsy now than when I was here on leave two years ago. I see now fifty or sixty in a month. Two years ago I should see fifteen or twenty, I see two or three tipsy women in a month. Dhangors and Bourees, not prostitutes. I see seven or eight boys of 10 or 12 tipsy in a month. Low class boys. I do not know of *bhodro lok's* boys drinking. I consider that drinking has increased in the immediate neighbourhood of the outstill, because cheap liquor can be obtained near at hand.

Examination of Kritarta Choron Ghose, Sodgop, aged 35.—I am Naib of Kristanath Biswas, zemindar of Dasghora. One Bishen Bagdee gets drunk and annoys women with his language. I do not know whether he drank before. I saw a Kayasth drunk. I do not know whether he drank before. There is more drinking in this village since liquor became cheap. The women of the earth-cutting coolies drink, but I never saw one lie on the road *Bhodro lok* drink. Before they drank very little. Liquor is cheaper now, and near at hand. They are not rich *bhodro lok*. Most of them take liquor home themselves. They have not

servants. I know of a Tamboolee who drinks so much that his family is in distress. He did not drink before; at least I did not see him. He now drinks more. He is a son of Dinonath Tamboolee, an old man. He lives at home and has no brother. The family consists of him and his father and his wife. He lives by conducting people home from Tarkeswar. *26th February 1888, DASGHORA.*

Examination of Odhor Chandra Dutt, aged 28, *Kayasth.*—I am zemindar's khezanchee. Tipsy people make a noise passing my house at night every two or three days. It was never so before. There were very few tipsy people in the shop days. No women or boys are seen among the tipsy people.

I returned to Dwarbasinee. On the 28th February I rode to Makalpoor, or Dholerbagan outstill, about seven miles. It is on the main road to Dhanyakhalee, about a mile east of hât Belmooree, where there is a market every Tuesday and Saturday. On the way I questioned people in Nobogram, Mongolpoor, Sikunderpoor, and other villages, and found that they had nothing to say about drunkenness. It evidently is no nuisance here. I asked the Mahomedans about it, and they said that none of them drink either spirits or *taree*. I asked whether there were any *choto lok*, and whether they did not drink. They said that of course Bengalees drink, considering it evidently no new thing. There used to be a liquor shop at this place. The licensee has a copper still of 19 gallons (being allowed 20), and is allowed 24 and 36 jars of 10 gallons each. He has 29 jars of 8 gallons, of which three are now empty. I tested his liquor— *28th February, MAKALPOOR.*

Sample No. 1.	Six	annas	... in	jar	...	15·8° below proof.
„ 2.	Five	„	... „	cask	...	40·1° „
„ 3.	Five	„	... „	bottle	...	38·0° „
„ 4.	Five	„	... „	„	...	36·7° „

I do not understand how liquor 15·8 below proof is selling at only six annas, while five-anna liquor averages 38° below proof. The following figures are taken from the outstill books:—

		Molasses used. Mds.	s.	Outturn. Bots.	Sale. Bots.
April	1887	14	38	576⅔	536⅔
May	„	22	0	833	693
June	„	22	11	942	862
July	„	15	5	616⅔	636⅔
August	„	11	0	418	458
September	„	8	9	310	335
October	„	12	15	456	521
November	„	14	13	380	365
December	„	17	11	666	446
January	1888	10	7	395	610
		147	29	5,593	5,463

Examination of Rakhal Chondro Shaha.—The license is in the name of Judishthir Chondro Shaha, my sister's son. We live together. I have no share in any other still. We had the shop here before. I used to get liquor from Bhastora distillery. I used to sell at fourteen annas and a rupee. We have now only these two kinds of liquor. I sometimes make stronger liquor at eight annas to special order for *bhodro lok* of Kashnan. One or two distillations in the month, also for Khetrees of Makalpoor, for no other villages. It is stronger than the six-anna liquor. Three-fourths of my sales are of five-anna liquor and a fourth, six-anna. Six-anna liquor is principally taken by *bhodro lok* to their homes, but some drink here. Most of the five-anna liquor is drunk by *choto lok*, not much by *bhodro lok*. Three-quarters of it is taken home, a quarter drunk here. I put in each jar:—

Molasses	11 seers.
Water	18 „
Spent-wash	10 „
	39 or 10 gallons.

I use *bakar* only at first starting. I never use tamarinds. I do not know the use of them. I use *kootra goor* from Shantipoor. It is date sugar. The price is Rs. 2-8 and Rs. 3 the maund. It is *mát* from which sugar has been extracted. I also use cane sugar *mát* from which *chinee* has been extracted. It comes from this country, and costs Rs. 2-8, Rs. 2-4. I use four seers of *cane* sugar and seven seers of *kootra*. I also use *dhima* sugar dry, from the west,

28th February 1888, MAKALPOOR.

about an eighth of a seer in one jar. The price is Rs. 4-8 and Rs. 5 the maund. In cold weather fermentation takes from eleven to thirteen days, in hot weather eight or nine; we close the jar from the first, and do not leave it open at all. We stir it on the third day only, not afterwards. Do not put it out in the sun. A man drinks from four to ten pice worth of liquor at a time. Some will stagger on ten pice, but will not fall. Some will fall on eight or ten pice. No women or boys drink. No boys are sent for liquor. I pay a monthly fee of Rs. 130. Some women buy liquor here, Bourees and Dhangors, not prostitutes; they take it away and do not drink it here. I do not sell on credit.

Examination of Horee Choron Keyora, aged 25.—I have land. I have drunk ever since I can remember; three or four years. The liquor here is good. It costs five annas the bottle. I sometimes drink here, sometimes take it home. I drink four pice worth, not more—never eight pice. I should get intoxicated (*nisha*) on four pice, but should not fall. I should go home and eat my rice. I used to drink liquor here; it cost fourteen annas and a rupee. The liquor was of the same quality as now. The cheapness is a great boon to us. We can have a drink for two pice. I drink two or three times a month. I used to drink once every two or four months only. I live near here at Kagnan. I do not know of any women of Keyoras drinking, or boys.

Examination of Koilash Tetoola Bagdee.—I live at Tegree, ten miles from here, in thana Haripal, I am servant here in a Baboo's *baree* and drink here. I have been here two months. Liquor here costs five and six annas. The six-anna liquor gives headache. I do not drink five-anna liquor. I drink eight or ten pice worth at a time, here: I do not take it home. I do not know of women of Bagdees drinking. Boys do sometimes.

Examination of Hiroo Bouree, aged 30.—I live at Makalpoor. I have drunk as long as I can remember, but not much; six pice worth at a time. The price is four annas and ten pice the bottle. I drink the latter. Six pice does not produce *nisha*. There was a shop for *kácha mod* here last year. [The Inspector explains that there was a pachwai shop.] I did not drink. There was also *páká mod*. I did not drink it here. I went daily with the mail to Dhanyakhalee and got my liquor there. The price was fourteen annas.

Examination of Prem Chand Bouree, aged 45.—I live at Makalpoor, and am a cooly. I have 1¾ beeghas of land. I have drunk liquor all my life as Bourees do. I drink liquor here at five annas. There is also six-anna liquor. I drink here and at home. I drink five pice worth at a time. I get *goolábee nisha*. For five annas I should fall on the road. I used to drink liquor here at the shop at fourteen annas and a rupee. I used to take a bottle home and drink a glass every five days. A bottle lasted me a month. I can now drink two pice worth every day or, one pice worth. Bouree women and boys drink. My father and grandfather drank. We always drank. I know nothing of *taree*. None is made here. If we could get it we should drink it. Liquor produces no illness unless you drink too much.

Examination of Jeti Prosad Singh Roy, Khshatriya, aged 27, *zemindar*.—I live here at Makalpoor. The place is called Dholerbagan. Drunkenness has increased. A number of Khshatriyas, from 20 to 27, have taken to drink lately. For six or seven years before there has been no drinking. There is a Sobha which has stopped drinking. There used to be drinking. I have never drunk a single drop in my life. The young men I speak of have no employment, but live on rent-free lands. There are five or six of them. One is a distant connection of mine, aged fourteen or fifteen, one is 30, one 29. Those of 29 or 30 used to drink before. Those of 20 or 21 have only taken to drink since the outstill was established. I do not know of their drinking before. It is the cheapness that has increased drinking. Two of them used to drink before, but could not afford to drink so much as now. Now they drink, I believe, every day or nearly. Formerly only twice or thrice a month. The *choto lok* drink more now than they used I seldom come here, but in the village, half a mile away, I have seen four or five men lying drunk on the road in the last eight or nine months. They were coolies, Dhangors and the like. I have heard of many such cases. I have seen Bouree and cooly women drunk both on the road and in their houses which are close to mine. They drank before, but now almost every day. I have seen women lying drunk near their houses. Within two or three years I have seen about ten women lying drunk. They are accustomed to drink *taree*. There is no *taree* manufactured in this neighbourhood, but people drink *taree*, both fermented and unfermented. At home *taree* was not often fermented. I mean the juice of the *talgach*, not of the *khajoor*. The lower classes—only the Bourees I believe—used to drink much *pachwai* here, as much as their bellies would contain. I have heard that a man would drink eight or nine seers in one day, and that on that day he would not be able to eat rice. I know nothing of thefts in the country. I have only heard of one or two cases, not many. I know of no cases of annoyance to women from drunken men. I have seen among the coolies scarcity on account of drink, but not of families starving for want of food. There is a road through our village along which tipsy men go singing obscene songs, unmannerly, in parties of from thirteen to twenty or more. I have no suspicion of the existence of liquor shops, or sales elsewhere than at the still.

Examination of Ponchanon Boshoo Roy, Kayasth, aged 65.—I am the late head-master of Salkiya higher class school, and Hindoo Metropolitan College. I live at Belmooree, about a mile from here.

[Deponent proceeded to make a discursive oration upon intemperance generally, which I do not record, as it contained nothing but platitudes, but he said that he thought drinking spirits in moderation was beneficial to the health, and that many of the lower classes did drink moderately without drunkenness; that he thought all mischief would be remedied if only we could raise the retail price of liquor.]

4th March 1888, BUDGE-BUDGE.

From Makalpoor I rode fifteen miles to Hooghly Railway station, and returned to Calcutta, having visited every outstill in the districts of Hooghly and Howrah. On the 4th March I went down the river Hooghly with Mr. Forbes, Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs, and first landed at Budge-Budge in that district, where there is an outstill. We tested the liquor and found the strength to be as follows. The price entered is only that stated by the distillers, not checked, by questioning consumers, &c.:—

Sample No.	Price.		
1.	10 annas	...	20·0° below proof.
2.	8 „	...	28·3° „

This, with the addition of 25 per cent. of water, is sold at six annas. The strength would be 46° below proof. He says he never sells anything below six annas:—

3.	8 annas	...	27·4° below proof.
4.	8 „	...	25·7° „

The fee has been Rs. 500 for three years past. This year only Rs. 350 is paid, and the shop remained unlet for three months. The distiller says that he has made no change this year in his prices or in the strength of his liquor. That people used to come over from Bowreah to drink. No liquor used to be taken to Bowreah. The license is in the name of Chamroo Choudhoree Dhopa, whose partners are Modhoo Soodon Shaha, Jogeshwar Shaha, Hirat Chunder Shaha, Chondi Choron Shaha. He says that Modhoo Soodon Shaha is also largely interested in Gopeegunj in the 24-Pergunnahs, and in Bowreah, Sarenga, Bagnan, Oolooberiya, Kantapokhor, Andool, Jhaporda, Jogotbollobhpoor, Majoo and Kharooberiya in Howrah, and Chonditala in Serampore. This Modhoo Soodan, who lives at Ramkrishnapoor in Howrah, and whom I met this day, admitted. Budge-Budge was closed during April, May, and June. Gopeegunj opened in April. Roypoor was closed during April and May. Kantakhalee, and also Nainan, were closed during April, May, June, and July. These shops in the 24-Pergunnahs lie on or near the bank of the Hooghly in the above order. Budge-Budge is allowed 1,120 gallons in hot weather, 1,680 in cold, fermenting capacity. This for next year will be reduced to agree with his sales. Allowing eight days for fermentation in hot weather, 1,120 gallons fermenting capacity would give 24 jars each of 12·66 gallons, and the still would be 18·99 gallons. The distiller says that he puts into each of his jars 40 seers of *chita* goor and 2½ seers of *bhelee* in the cold season (1½ seers in hot); that the *chita* goor is the *mat* or treacle of cane sugar from which *chinee* has been extracted. The *bhelee* which he shows is dry hard cane sugar. He says that he uses no date sugar this year, because he cannot get it. He says that *chita goor* costs Rs. 2-8, Rs. 3, and Rs. 3-4 per maund. Firewood costs Rs. 30 per 100 maunds. No coal or cow-dung is used. That the first distillation takes 1½ maund of wood, and each subsequent one a maund. The fermenting jar is kept open for two days, then closed. It is stirred on the third and fifth days only. The outstill is just outside the bazar, and not on any road. I do not think the site objectionable.

BOWREAH GOPEEGUNJ.

We next went across to Bowreah which I had inspected thoroughly before, on the 22nd and 23rd January. We went on to Gopeegunj in the 24-Pergunnahs. It is on the metalled road between Budge-Budge and Acheepore, nearly a mile from the river. I tested the strength of the liquor as follows:—

Sample No.	Price.			
1	10 annas	... without aniseed	...	26·3° below proof.
2	8 „	... ditto	...	33·2° „
3	8 „	... ditto	...	32·8° „
4	10 „	... ditto	...	16·5° „
5	10 „	... (with aniseed)	...	16·6° „

He says that he puts a seer of aniseed (*mowree*) into the still at the time of distillation. Adding one-fourth water he sells his eight-anna liquor at six annas. Both *choto lok* and *bhodro lok* drink the liquor, the latter taking it home. About five-eighths of the liquor is drink here, and three-eighths taken home.

4th March 1888, OOLOOBERIYA ROYPOOR.

We went across to Oolooberiah and visited the still, which I had thoroughly inspected before, on the 19th and 22nd January. We then went on to Roypoor outstill in the 24-Pergunnahs. It is on the river bank, at a place which is probably at some seasons a considerable rice mart. We tested the strength of the liquor to be as follows:—

Sample. No.	Price.				
1	10 annas		...	...	17·8° below proof.
2	8 „		...	...	30·8° „
3	10 „	(with aniseed)	...	...	28·5° „
4	12 „		...	...	16·4° „

10th March. RUSSA.

The eight annas liquor is also sold at six annas without watering.

We returned to Calcutta. On the 10th March 1888. I visited the Russa distillery with the Collector of Calcutta and examined Mr. Siddons, the Manager, taking from him the following notes. The still when full contains 55 gallons. It must be worked two-thirds full only, that is to say, with not more than $36\frac{2}{3}$ gallons of wash. Nothing is gained by putting in less; and if you put in more, the fluid boils over into the receiver. The wash is made up as follows:—

Molasses	...	...	...	...	40 seers.
Water	...	...	...	...	48 to 54 seers.
Spent wash	...	...	...	...	24 seers.
Shachee goor...		...	...	...	1 seers.
					113 seers, or 28·25 gallons.

The goor is *chita màt*, date treacle, from which *chinee* has been extracted, costing Rs. 2-8 to Rs. 2-12 per maund. During the cold weather we have been using *nagaree*, the same sugar, but thicker and with less *chinee* extracted. This gives about $4\frac{1}{2}$ gallons or 27 bottles per maund of goor, and the *chita* only 24. The reason why *nagaree* is prepared instead of getting out all the *chinee* is probably only that it sells better than *chita*. It can only be obtained in the cold weather. I believe none of the *chinee* has been extracted from *nagaree goor*. The stills are all of metal, but can distil only three times a day, because the arrangements for filling and emptying are clumsy. The Behar stills may distil oftener. Each maund of goor takes a maund of firewood costing wholesale six annas the maund. No cow-dung is used to produce slow firing, but the heat is sometimes let off by vents. The distillers understand the advantage of slow firing. Earthen stills were constantly bursting, which is dangerous and wastes material, and the distillers prefer metal. Fermentation takes from ten to twelve days in cold weather, and from six to seven in hot. The jar is kept open and stirred daily for three days till the stuff works, then closed and left quiet. No difference is made in this in the hot or cold season. The distillers do not use wash insufficiently fermented, unless exceptionally pushed. Mr. Siddons would like to see double the quantity of water used. No water is ever put in the receiver. The duty is Rs. 5 per gallon of London proof, and the duty on what is passed out is generally Rs. 4-1 to Rs. 4-3, which gives a strength of 18·75° to 17·25° below proof. Aniseed is put in at the time of distillation to produce liquor from 50 to 60 below proof. *Mahawa* liquor equally weak is also sometimes made and sold for those accustomed to use it. The cost of production, covering (labour, firewood, material, jars, still, &c., is taken to be twelve annas per gallon, and the price the distiller gets is thirteen annas. The vendor pays the duty Rs. 5 per gallon for London proof, and the distillery fee one anna per gallon, making his outlay Rs. 5-14 per gallon London proof. If he sells liquor at 19 below proof at a rupee per bottle, he gets at the rate of Rs. 1-3-6 per bottle London proof, or Rs. 7-8 per gallon London proof. The difference Rs. 1-10 per gallon London proof has to cover shop charges, including license fee.

15th March.

On the 15th March, Mr. Eagleton, Superintendent of the Excise Preventive Force, gave me the following information:—

I believe an immense quantity of liquor is smuggled in by water, rail, and road. We have caught four cases from Jhaporda and one from Andool, the latter by steamer. We

have no authority to search unless we can show reasonable grounds for suspicion. Many of our shops cannot possibly be paying except by smuggling. Modhoo Soodan Shaha is a shareholder in five shops, two of which are not paying, and a third scarcely covers its expenses. Drinking is allowed at all shops, but there is not much visible drunkenness: the police would prevent it. The retail price of liquor in Howrah is about Rs. 1-4.

Mr. Eagleton afterwards sent me more detailed information on the subject, which I have given in section 18.*

Examination of G. Toynbee, Esq., Magistrate and Collector of Hooghly, who deposed as follows.—I distinguish between the agricultural land-holding classes, who are, I think, as a rule sober and the landless labourers, who drink and have always drunk habitually. I should say that Bagdees, Bourees, Chamars, Chanrals, Doms, Dosadhs, Harees, Jaliyas, and Kahars have always drunk as much liquor as they could get. I have observed more tipsiness among these classes this year, such as singing, shouting, dancing, but not staggering or helpless intoxication. I have never, so far as I recollect, seen a man helplessly drunk, except in the urban areas. I have never seen tipsiness away from the roads or in the villages, or except at the outstills themselves. I think the low Mahomedans drink a good deal, but principally *taree*. There are not so many *tál* trees in the north as in the south. I believe some *taree* is made from the date palm, but it is principally from the *tál*. It is the landless Mahomedans who drink. Some Koiborttos are respectable, but some are low-drinking people. The Sadgops as a rule do not, I think, drink. I think we *see* more tipsiness now, but that previously outstill liquor was drunk to a great extent in private. I cannot say positively that there is more drinking, but there probably is, as a man can get more liquor now for his money than he could before. I also think that more may be drunk now because people consider that a prohibition has been removed, and that drinking is now sanctioned by Government. I think it has been a mistake to cheapen the liquor, and that if the price could have been kept up, the outstills would not have been so much complained against. I think the people in the interior of the Serampore and Sudder subdivisions could afford to pay very nearly as much as those in the towns. I think the duty might be so high—I mean so nearly equal to that paid in the towns—as not to pay for the risk and cost of any systematic smuggling. I think it is impossible to prevent smuggling altogether. I think where judicial officers cannot convict the principal offenders, it is impossible to inflict such punishment on the coolies who are caught carrying liquor as to prevent smuggling. Where liquor is caught in hackney carriages, heavy fines have been and may be imposed. I do not approve of ordering the police to search indiscriminately. They would probably abuse the power, and cause an outcry. I am afraid that even now they in some cases take bribes to shut their eyes. I think there is friction between the police and the excise daroghas, and I think excise detection would be better done by police officers than by daroghas. The daroghas are too proud to do detective work well, and fail to get much assistance from the police. The real remedy for undue cheapness of outstill, as compared with distillery liquor, appears to be to raise the upset prices of outstill licenses so as to increase the cost of outstill liquor. I think minimum prices may be gradually raised. I cannot hope to enforce the minimum strictly, but I think it would tend to keep up the price. I have no doubt tipsy men are a nuisance to passers-by, but I have never heard of any attempts to ravish women. They may and probably do annoy them by indecent language and gesture. I have not heard of men going into *barees* after women. There has been no increase in serious or petty crime. I remember no case of crime attributable to drunkenness, except ordinary quarrelling which is nothing new. If we object to the present sites of outstills, the distillers will in many cases be unable to get sites. I certainly think shops in bazars and on the road side are a nuisance to sober people. I think it would be well if Government could take up land for sites in cases where the distillers could not procure suitable sites for themselves. All that we can do now is to cancel licenses when sites are objectionable, and this might in many cases be a great hardship both to distillers and consumers. I think there might be a duty of Rs. 3 in the whole of the Sudder sub-division, if Nuddea and Burdwan were not keeping our prices down. The Serampore sub-division might bear a higher duty, say Rs. 3-8. There would probably be combination and some sacrifice of revenue at first. I think Jahanabad is a much poorer country, and that Rs. 2 would be sufficient duty. I note that for spirit 50° below proof this would be 2¾ annas per bottle. I have had no complaints of liquor being unwholesome. Practically I do not think that the restrictions on stills and jars have been felt. If they had been felt, they could, I think, in most cases have been evaded by having fermenting jars in private houses. I cannot say whether the labouring classes drink much in moderate quantities without drunkenness. I believe that there is genuine competition among *abkars* in the north of the district. I have asked the Board to sanction immediate payments to the police, as well as to private parties as sanctioned in Board's No. 7B of February 1888, cancelling the circular order of 2nd September 1881. I think that where sufficient fine cannot be inflicted, Government might give rewards in liquor-smuggling cases. I think the excise detective agency should form part of the district police. It would be under better supervision. I do not believe in the least in pauperisation of the people. They are extremely prosperous. All get two meals a day and spend enormously on marriages. Increase in drinking only keeps pace with increase in general prosperity, which is very marked since I came here nearly five years ago. I do not suspect illicit distillation.

Examination of W. B. Oldham, Esq., Magistrate and Collector of Burdwan.—My distillery area comes within ten miles of the Hooghly border. The liquor in the intermediate area is

* Page 37.

about 67° below proof, and, except for the disturbance of settlements by a sudden change, I do not see why it should not pay a duty of Rs. 4 per gallon London-proof. The duty in the distillery area is Rs. 4, and I fancy the amount of smuggling is very great. It is practically uncontrolled. The population is by no means a pauper one. They eat twice a day and spend much on marriages. I do not believe in any pauperisation of the people. Recent enquiries have disproved it. The only complaints as to drinking are from colliery managers. Very great care was taken to prevent stills being in objectionable sites, and there are only four on the Grand Trunk Road which are actually in bazars. I do not believe in women being annoyed or afraid to go for water. The low castes and low Mahomedans have always drunk, the latter almost entirely *taree* I have never seen Mahomedans at the outstills. I have seen drinking at the outstills in this district, but in very orderly fashion—no drunkenness or even singing. My outstills are away up lanes and gullies in villages. In this district there is no difficulty in getting unobjectionable sites. They are generally in secluded places, hard to find. I do not think there would be any advantage in making the detective agency part of the police of the district. The police do a good deal of excise work for the sake of the rewards. I think immediate payment of rewards very advisable, but do not think it necessary to extend it to the police, as the monthly-bill system works well. All our labourers have land, and we have no landless labourers, except those who come to work for a season, and colliers, &c. *Taree* is made from the date as well as the *tál* tree. I think excise officers, including daroghas, might have the searching powers of police officers. Along the eastern borders of my district liquor might pay Rs. 4, if Nuddea would co-operate, but I should object to the disturbing influence of a sudden rise. With Jahanabad paying only Rs. 2 on the south, my district would not be affected north of the Damoodar, which is an efficient boundary; on the west I have to deal with cheap *mahaua* liquor which is at least 80° below proof, and sold at two pice out of one outstill and three pice elsewhere. I see that it pays about Re. 1-11-2 per gallon London-proof at the two-pice outstill. It might pay Rs. 2-8.

Examination of A. Forbes, Esq., Collector of the 24-Pergunnahs.—The outstill system has been in force in the 24-Pergunnahs for many years. The central distillery area includes a strip, about four miles wide along the river bank from the north of the district to below Akra. It is under the Calcutta excise system, and the shops are supplied from Calcutta. As a rule, I think that no outstill is within six miles of this area. I believe the retail price in the distillery area is about a rupee per bottle. I learn from the Deputy Collector and Inspector that the price of outstill liquor nearest to the distillery area is from eight to twelve annas. I do not know the strength. It varies. I do not know our price on the border of Nuddea. Large beels and rivers prevent much communication between the east of my district and Khoolna. The price of outstill liquor in the east is from five to ten annas. The strength is probably weaker. The south of the district near the Soonderbuns is probably the cheapest. The price along the Hooghly is from eight to ten annas. The outstills in Howrah have affected those in the 24-Pergunnahs. Budge-Budge license was sold in 1887-88 for Rs. 350, against Rs. 500 which had been the price for several years. This and Gopeegunj, and I think Nainan, remained unsold for some time. We cannot remove our shops from the large marts on the river bank, such as Budge-Budge. I see no objection to selling Budge-Budge in one lot with Bowreah. I see no objection to making upset prices conditional on all shops being let, and giving notice at the time of auction that in case of shops remaining unlet, or being closed, the upset prices of neighbouring shops will be liable to revision. Several outstills are in bazars. If such sites were prohibited, I think there would probably be difficulty in getting others. I do not know that present holders are owners or lease holders of their sites. I fancy the zemindars can always turn them out. I think sites should belong to Government. It would certainly promote free competition. I think the Government order, if a minimum price were fixed, would have sufficient prestige to keep up prices in spite of vendor and purchaser wishing to keep them down. I do not know whether the retail prices of our outstill liquor have been affected by opening outstills in Howrah. We do all we can to keep the police on the alert as to smuggling outstill liquor, keeping such work in view in the promotion of officers. There have been a good many case detected.

Examination of Baboo Ganendro Nath Pal, Excise Deputy Collector.—The upset price were fixed at Rs. 2 per gallon. This duty was proposed by the Board of Revenue, and sanctioned by Government as being half the prevalent duty (see Government letter No. 132 of 13th January 1887). We also calculated on the three years' average revenue from the previous shops and also by taking half the difference between cost of production and retail price. In fixing the upset price we took the highest among the three results. The upset prices of Gooptipara, Sreepoor, Janda, Dhanyakhalee, Bhastora, and Makalpoor were reduced, because we could not get the bids we wanted. It is my opinion that there is genuine competition among *abkars* over the whole area of Hooghly, excluding Howrah. Modhoo Soodan Shaha has this year got Sheokhala and Chonditala. The Ramkrishnapoor Soonrees with Modhoo Soodan are all in combination. Koilash has taken the four shops on the Tarkeshwar line. I believe there is much smuggling into the urban area—more by shopkeepers than by consumers, but I do not know that the shopkeepers have any interest in outstills. There is an increase in the amount of liquor taken out of distilleries between 1886-87 and 1887-88. Practically the *abkars* have not used the full fermenting capacity allowed them, although they have exceeded the amount of material allowed. They have done this by using a denser wash. I believe and am sure that no *chinee* has been extracted from *nagoree*. I think the *abkars* could evade the restrictions if they liked: we have not sufficient detective agency.

They would use their molasses jars on their premises, and need not ferment in prostitutes' houses. The excise daroghas are not to be trusted. There have been cases of private sales of liquor near Sheoraphoolee and near Bally. The latter was detected by an excise darogha, who also detected two of the Sheoraphoolee cases. The police detected the others.

Examination of Mr. V. W. Bertelsen, District Superintendent of Police, Hooghly.—I only came to this district in October, but I have travelled over the whole of it, camping from place to place. Outside the urban area I have not seen a single man drunk, and have not even seen tipsy people singing along the roads. For more than two months I have been about in the Sudder and Serampore sub-divisions, taking a walk on the roads in the evening. I have often seen people coming away from market, and never saw the slightest tipsiness among them. I have heard from Baboos everywhere that drunkenness has increased, or rather drinking. I have not examined them as to the extent of tipsiness of the drunken people of whom they speak. I have not heard them speak of women drinking. Of course prostitutes are well known to be great customers for liquor. I have never heard a word of women being annoyed by drunken people on the road after market or going for water. I have seen fourteen or fifteen out of the nineteen outstills in the district, walking by them, and never saw people lying about or staggering. At Dhanyakhalee and Chonditala I saw people drinking quietly, but could not see that there was any intoxication. My walks were generally in the evening with my wife, and we never saw any disgusting sight. There have been a good many cases detected of outstill liquor coming into the urban area near Sheoraphoolee, but none near Mugra nor Ooterpara. I believe the police really do look out for it, and I do not suspect them of conniving. I have men out of uniform at all railway stations watching for opium and liquor, and they get rewards which they consider worth having. I doubt whether a minimum price could be enforced. I do not think the feeling about drinking is general; it only exists among a few Baboos, and I do not think the people generally care about liquor being cheap. I think that by raising the upset prices of outstills we should succeed in increasing the price of liquor. I think that if outstills were prohibited within 500 yards of a market place or road leading to a market, liquor would not be suggested as a temptation to sober people, and that those who really wanted liquor might still know where to go for it. I fully approve the suggestion of Government becoming the possessor of proper sites, and I can see no objection to it. It would certainly encourage competition, whereas the present holders of sites have nearly a monopoly. I do not believe in any increase in the number of petty thefts. I have seen what the papers have said about the liquor trade, and therefore it has been one of the subjects which I have been inquiring into during my tour. I have heard of no distress among families.

Reg. No. 10808J—360—8-12-83.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

EXCISE.

DARJEELING, THE 13TH OCTOBER 1888.

RESOLUTION.

WHEN the outstill system was generally introduced in these Provinces, one of the tracts excluded from its operation was the Revenue district of Hooghly, including Howrah. Subsequently the subdivision of Jehanabad, which was under the outstill system, was transferred from the jurisdiction of Burdwan to that of Hooghly. The shops in the excluded tracts were supplied from five distilleries (Bhastara, Radhanagore, Mohiari, Hooghly, and Serampore), of which the first three were situated at some distance from district or subdivisional head-quarters. One of the recommendations of the Excise Commission was that the Bhastara and Radhanagore distilleries should be closed, and that the Mohiari distillery should be removed to the head-quarters of the Uluberia subdivision. The Board of Revenue, on examining the question in communication with the local officers, came to the conclusion that a preferable measure would be the extension of the outstill system to the whole area hitherto supplied with liquor from these distilleries. It was pointed out that the fees realized from Bhastara and Radhanagore did not even cover the expenses of the repairs of the buildings much less the cost of the establishment maintained at the distilleries. The fees paid in 1885-86 were Rs. 106-14, against establishment charges only of Rs. 1,900. And there were clear indications that the requirements of liquor-consumers were to a great extent supplied by smuggling from the adjoining outstill tract. The proposed distillery at Uluberia, on the other hand, would have had to supply a tract separated by river only from the outstill jurisdiction of the 24-Pergunnahs on one side and Midnapore on the other, and there was evidence that smuggling of outstill liquor was rife in this part of the Howrah district. The Board accordingly, influenced by the strong representations of the local officers, recommended, in preference to the proposals of the Excise Commission, the extension of the outstill system to the whole of the Hooghly Revenue district, with the exception of a densely-populated suburban area extending from Mugra to the southern limit of the Howrah Municipality. This proposal was accepted by Sir Rivers Thompson in Government orders No. 2071T—F, dated 3rd November 1886, as well as the Board's proposal to appoint a specially qualified Excise Deputy Collector to supervise the arrangements connected with the change of system. As was observed in Government Resolution dated 5th December 1887, the result was the reduction of the number of distillery shops from 139 to 47, while the number of outstills in the district was only increased from 30 to 52. In November 1887 the Lieutenant-Governor received from the Secretary to the Indian Association a letter in which it was declared that, under the new system, facilities for obtaining liquor had been provided; that the price of liquor had been largely reduced; and that crime, immorality, and drunkenness had increased. The Association supplied statements put forward by its agents, and Sir Steuart Bayley, deeming it right to cause such definite allegations to be thoroughly investigated, deputed to this duty Mr. E. V. Westmacott, Magistrate of Howrah.

2. Before Mr. Westmacott's report was submitted, it was decided, at the instance of the Government of India, to depute a special officer to Madras and Bombay to study the systems of Excise in force in those Presidencies, and since that time the Secretary of State has requested that the comparative merits of the outstill and other systems may be carefully examined in their application to Excise Administration in Bengal. These enquiries are still under consideration. A copy of Mr. Westmacott's report was, however, unofficially supplied to the Board of Revenue some time ago, and the Lieutenant-Governor is anxious that the recommendations which it contains may be carefully considered in all districts before the ensuing Excise settlements for 1889-90. The changes of

system indicated in Mr. Buckland's report are of such a nature as to require very long and careful consideration, and would take a considerable time to mature, even should they be eventually approved. Meanwhile, it is expedient to reform the defects discovered in our existing machinery, and from this point of view Sir Steuart Bayley deems it advisable to review briefly the conclusions at which Mr. Westmacott has arrived on the representations of the Indian Association.

3. At the outset, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to express his acknowledgments of the public service rendered by the Association in examining the subject of the outstill administration in Hooghly and Howrah, and laying before Government the allegations of its agents and correspondents. Those allegations have been fully and patiently investigated by Mr. Westmacott; and though some of them have not borne the test of enquiry, the scrutiny to which they have been subjected has had the result of making manifest several defects, which it is both the duty and the interest of Government to remedy. Notwithstanding that the recommendations of the Excise Commission in regard to the capacity of stills and fermenting vats have been nominally introduced, it has been found that the effect of these measures has been practically neutralized, and the consumption of intoxicating drink increased, by the selection of inappropriate sites for shops, by an unduly low rate of duty being fixed on the estimated consumption in calculating the upset price of the stills and by the capacity of stills and vats originally fixed being "afterwards increased in proportion to the fees the abkars were willing to pay for their licenses," thus giving rise to an undue cheapening of liquor and offering improper facilities for its sale in the interior, and its introduction surreptitiously into the urban and suburban areas under the fixed duty system. It is not too much to say that the safeguards which the Excise Commission considered absolutely essential to justify the continued existence of the outstill system have in this tract been so little kept in view that the system became scarcely distinguishable from that which in paragraph 102 received the severe condemnation of the Commission, as being likely to foster the very evils which Mr. Westmacott's report has brought to light. On this point the Commission say, in comparing the sudder distillery with the outstill system:—

"There is no difference in principle between the two systems, provided care be taken to limit the producing capacity of the outstills, and to make the revenue paid on each proportionate to its capacity. On the other hand, there is a radical difference between any system under which stills are taxed according to their producing power, or a duty is levied on the amount produced, and any system under which the distiller obtains the privilege of making as much spirit as he can on payment of a sum, fixed without reference either to the amount actually produced by him or his means of production. The Commission have no hesitation in condemning the latter for all times and places, whether it takes the form of outstills, without limit of producing power, or farms, or any similar arrangement."

The Lieutenant-Governor accepts generally the views contained in the whole of this paragraph, and whatever may be his decision ultimately as to the possibility, under proper safeguards, of so working the outstill system as to free it from the reproach of artificially stimulating the sale of an unnecessarily cheap liquor, he is confident that in this instance those safeguards have not been carefully applied, and the reproach above indicated has been incurred because the system, to which alone the Commission gave its approval, has not been properly, and with all its necessary restrictions, introduced. Its introduction at all into this tract was an exception to the general policy adopted, and it was therefore specially desirable that there should be no relaxation in the safeguards which were recommended. It is probable that in other parts of Bengal the errors brought to light by Mr. Westmacott may equally obtain; and without attempting to decide, without further experience, whether the outstill system, as safeguarded by the recommendations of the Commission, can ultimately be maintained, the practical matter for immediate consideration is the reform of errors in the administration of the system actually in force over the greater part of Bengal.

4. It is unnecessary for the Lieutenant-Governor to discuss in detail each individual statement of personal experience which the informants of the Indian Association have brought forward. These have been examined by Mr. Westmacott. It will be more profitable to consider the general issues arising out of the representation which has been submitted to Government.

5. The first point which Mr. Westmacott's enquiry has established is the extremely objectionable position in which most of the outstills have been

placed. Of the eight outstills referred to specially by the Indian Association, and reported upon in detail by Mr. Westmacott (Singur, Kristonugger, Amta, Haripal, Sripore, Chanditolla, Jhapurda, and Juggutbullubpore), every one is described as occupying an objectionable site. It is shown that they are situated on the public roads, in the middle of villages, or close to schools, or at the junction of great lines of communication. It is impossible to avoid the conclusion that, in selecting these sites, the Special Deputy Collector failed to have regard to some of the most important considerations of Excise Policy, and that his proceedings were insufficiently controlled by the local authorities. On this point Mr. Westmacott observes:—"The outstills generally occupy the sites of previously licensed shops, but the fact that liquor is now drunk on the premises to a much greater extent than before, added to the smell inseparable from the process of distillation, renders the outstill a far greater public nuisance than the shop ever was." It is also to be observed that those shops were very much more numerous than the outstills, and the concentration of drinkers at the outstills called for increased care in the selection of their sites. The circumstance, to be presently referred to, that liquor has been much cheapened under the outstill system is another cause of the increased consumption on the spot, thereby bringing into greater prominence the prevalence of intoxication. It is Mr. Westmacott's opinion that much of the feeling against the outstills in Hooghly has arisen from their objectionable positions; and he recommends that no outstill should be permitted within at least one furlong of any town or marketplace, or any road leading to it. He also recommends that, where the dealer cannot procure an unobjectionable site, or is unwilling to sink his money in a temporary venture, the Government should take up the land required and let it out to the outstill licensee. This is a question on which the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad to have the Board's opinion. There are obvious objections to the Government being more closely connected than it is at present with the direct manufacture and sale of spirits; but from the point of view of increased control and better supervision, the proposal has much to recommend it. It is clear that spirit cannot be manufactured after the country method, in the midst of a populous bazar, without grave inconvenience to the comfort and health of the inhabitants, and without offering patent and needless facilities for intoxication. The existing arrangements must be thoroughly revised before the next settlements. Having regard, however, to the density of the population in parts of the tract in question, and particularly of the villages referred to by the Indian Association, the Lieutenant-Governor would wish the Board to consider whether it might not be advisable in some cases to apply the system adopted, on the recommendation of the Excise Commission, for towns in which the establishment of central distilleries is not desirable. Liquor is manufactured outside the inhabited portion of the village, and is sold at retail shops in selected places. Whatever may be the decision on this point, the retention of most of the existing sites referred to by Mr. Westmacott cannot clearly be permitted.

6. It is alleged by the Indian Association that, while the position of the outstills has facilitated the supply of liquor and presented temptations to drinking, the lowering of the price of liquor has largely stimulated its consumption. Mr. Westmacott's enquiry has shown how seriously the price of liquor has been lowered, and how little restriction has been placed on the abkar's natural desire to extend his manufacture and his sale of the cheapened liquor. He admits, too, that these causes have necessarily led to an increase of consumption, though the conclusion he draws as to actual increase in drunkenness among the drinking class, or the spread of habits of drinking to classes previously free from them, is different. Mr. Westmacott rightly draws attention to a misleading form of expression employed both by the Indian Association and by other bodies and persons who have discussed the question of Excise Administration in this country. The words "sobriety" and "drunkenness" are frequently used to indicate habits and conditions very different from those suggested by the use of these terms in countries where no class of society can be described as total abstainers from the use of intoxicants. By the term a "sober" man is represented, not a man who preserves his sobriety, though he may use stimulants in moderation, but a man who rigidly abstains from their use; by the term a "drunkard" is understood, not a man who drinks to intoxication, but a man who drinks at all. This confusion of terms has undoubtedly caused

much misapprehension, and led to the acceptance and promulgation of very exaggerated views of the extent and intensity of the evils caused by errors in Excise Administration. That the price of liquor has, however, been seriously reduced under the outstill system in Hooghly there can be no question whatever: the remedy will be discussed further on. Mr. Westmacott's enquiry has shown that in this particular tract it is not the case, as is generally supposed, that outstill liquor is weaker than that supplied from the central distilleries. An interesting table given by him shows that, especially at outstills in the vicinity of the sudder distillery area, liquor has been manufactured of a strength considerably exceeding that of liquor formerly supplied from the distilleries, while it is nevertheless sold at a much lower price. At Sarenga, for instance, in the head-quarters subdivision of Howrah, the strength of the liquor was found to vary from 18° to 15° under proof, and the price from 6 annas to 10 annas per bottle ; while the three shops which this outstill has replaced sold, in 1886-87, liquor not stronger than 28° under proof at one rupee per bottle. Generally he finds that in the Hooghly subdivision and in Serampore there is no material difference between the strength of distillery and that of outstill liquor. In the Howrah subdivision outstill liquor is considerably stronger than the distillery liquor, but the outstills probably distil strong liquor to be smuggled into the urban areas of Howrah and Calcutta. The fact, however, that the cheaper liquor of the outstills is yet as strong as the old liquor of the sudder distillery is an undoubted element in producing increased consumption.

The evidence which Mr. Westmacott has obtained appears to support his conclusion that "the cheapening of liquor has not induced its use among classes who previously abstained from it; and in the classes which previously drank, the number of individuals who use liquor has not been proved to have greatly increased: still less is it proved that there is more drunkenness." He does not find that the allegations that habits of drinking have spread among women, among school-boys, among persons of the higher classes, or among land-holding peasants, are accurate; and his view is supported both by the statements of local witnesses and by the opinions of officials of experience. Nor does he find that, even among landless labourers, the increase in drinking at all represents an equal increase in drunkenness. It is clear, however, that such a result must follow if the reduction in the price of liquor were to be maintained; while nothing can be more obvious than that the revenue has suffered grievously by the very cause which promotes the consumption of spirits and threatens the spread of intemperance. The Lieutenant-Governor fully concurs in Mr. Westmacott's recommendations for the imposition, by raising the upset price of the outstills, of a graduated scale of duty, beginning, on the border of the urban area, with a rate very little less than that levied at the sudder distilleries. His recommendations on the subject of limiting the capacity of stills are not equally clear and convincing. Apparently he thinks that a strict limitation will be met on the part of the abkars by having recourse to a shorter period of fermentation and using a thicker wash, which is found in distillation to produce a larger amount of fusel oil, rendering the liquor unwholesome. He would therefore forego the attempt to limit the size of the stills and vats. In this view the Lieutenant-Governor cannot concur. Unless the experiment of limiting their capacity, or, in other words, of restricting the amount of proof-spirit to be distilled in a month in each outstill can be successfully carried out, Sir Steuart Bayley is unable to see how the outstill system can fail to degenerate into one under which the outstill-holder becomes a farmer pure and simple, with full power and every inducement to cheapen his liquor and increase the consumption thereof to the utmost possible extent. The mere raising of his upset price will not remedy this. It will diminish his profits in the first instance, but this will only push him, by every device, legitimate and illegitimate, to seek more customers. The attempt, through the medium of an upset price, to assimilate the duty paid by the outstill-holder on every gallon of liquor manufactured by him, with the still-head duty paid at the sudder distillery, is manifestly nullified when the outstill-holder has it in his power to increase his outturn *ad libitum*, and thereby reduce the duty paid on each gallon; and under Mr. Westmacott's proposal he would have this power to an extent unrestricted by anything but the limits within which his capital and enterprise would enable him to push his sales. In fact, the system approximates perilously to that which the Excise Commission specially condemned and

desired to exterminate. The Lieutenant-Governor is not blind to the dangers pointed out by Mr. Westmacott, as well as by the Commission, but he must insist on the safeguards of limited capacity in the stills, and a similar, though, in proportion, a somewhat less restricted, capacity in the vats, so as to avoid the temptation to too short fermentation, being given a full and fair trial, for it is his present opinion that, unless by this or some other means the outturn of liquor from an outstill can in practice be restricted, it will be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to justify the continued retention of the system.

The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with Mr. Westmacott in his views as to the expediency of fixing a more adequate minimum price also. The Board will be asked to give careful attention to these suggestions before the next settlements, and to report upon the suggestion, which at first sight does not commend itself to the Lieutenant-Governor, that the excise detective establishments should be placed under the regular Police Administration of the district.

7. As has been stated above, the Lieutenant-Governor is not at present prepared to pronounce finally upon the system or systems to be adopted in Bengal; but with the removal of outstills from objectionable sites, a real and practical limitation in the supply of liquor, an increase in its cost by the imposition of higher rates of fees, and an increase in the minimum price to be charged, it may confidently be hoped that the grounds of complaint, which have been most reasonably put forward in Hooghly and Howrah, will cease to exist. Mr. Westmacott's enquiry, however, indicates distinctly, in the interests both of public morality and of the State revenue, the need of examining the administration of the outstill system in other districts in the light of the conclusions which he has established. He remarks :—"Consumption has been allowed to increase, while excise revenue has been sacrificed by the policy of dealing with each district separately, and by permitting unnecessary differences in the incidence of duty on liquor in adjoining tracts." The whole scope of his report tends to support the opinion, which is held by many high authorities, that the administration of Excise in Bengal should, as in other Provinces, be placed under the charge of a special officer, whose duty would be to visit every district, and examine and direct the operations of the department in personal communication with the local officers. This question is under reference to the Government of India in connection with Mr. Buckland's report of his enquiry in Madras and Bombay. Meanwhile, Mr. Westmacott, on being relieved of his present appointment of Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, will be placed on special duty under the Board of Revenue, and charged with the supervision of the approaching Excise settlements.

8. In conclusion, the Lieutenant-Governor desires to thank Mr. Westmacott for the thoroughness and impartiality of his enquiry, and for the lucid and well-considered report in which he has embodied its results.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

COLMAN MACAULAY,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. $325\frac{T}{F}$.

COPY, with a copy of Mr. Westmacott's report, forwarded to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with Government order No. 4520, dated the 12th December 1887.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

COLMAN MACAULAY,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

DARJEELING,
The 13th October 1888.

W. M. D'C.—Reg. No. 10808J—360—8-12-88.

(BBS)

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